

THE Anti-Slavery Reporter.

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The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

[The Editor, whilst grateful to all correspondents who may be kind enough to furnish him with information, desires to state that he is not responsible for the views stated by them, nor for quotations which may be inserted from other journals. The object of the REPORTER is to spread information, and articles are necessarily quoted which may contain views or statements for which their authors can alone be held responsible.]

THE BRUSSELS ANTI-SLAVERY CONFERENCE.

The General Act and Declaration Signed.

WE have the pleasure to announce that, almost at the last possible moment, the Netherlands Government has given in its adhesion to the General Act, already signed by sixteen out of the seventeen Powers. The intimation was conveyed to the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY by a telegram from the Chef du Cabinet du ROI DES BELGES, kindly forwarded a few minutes after the signing of the Act, which runs as follows :—

Telegram.

Brussels, 30th December, 1890. Etat.

A MONSIEUR ALLEN,
55, New Broad Street, London.

"Hollande vient de signer."—COMTE DE BORCHGRAVE.

This good news was published in the London daily press on the following morning.

From THE STANDARD.

"THE HAGUE, Tuesday Night.

"In the Upper Chamber of the Dutch Legislature the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced to-day that the Netherlands Government, finding that its endeavours to persuade the Powers that the Declaration they had agreed to at the Brussels Conference in reference to the levying of Customs duties by the Congo State was a violation of the Fourth Clause of the Berlin Treaty, were all in vain, had resolved to join the rest of the Powers in signing the

"new Brussels Agreement. The communication was received by the Chamber "in profound silence, the general impression being that Holland had been "badly treated by the rest of Europe in this matter."

From THE TIMES.

"BRUSSELS, *December 30.*

"The Dutch Minister at Brussels signed to-day the Act of the Brussels Conference and the annexed Declaration relating to import duties in the basin of the Congo. The Belgian Foreign Secretary, BARON LAMBERMONT, the President of the Conference, and its Secretaries, Mr. GOSSELIN, of the British Legation, and M. DE CUVILIOR, of the Congo State Foreign Office, were present. This satisfactory result is due in a great measure to the labours of the British Plenipotentiaries.—*Our Correspondent.*"

From THE DAILY NEWS.

"BRUSSELS, *Tuesday.*

"Although the announcement of Holland's official adhesion to the Acts of the Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference was anticipated, it caused a deep impression in diplomatic and political circles here. At four o'clock this afternoon the Minister of the Netherlands, BARON GERICKE VAN HERWYNEN, signed the General Act in the presence of PRINCE DE CHIMAY and BARON DE LAMBERMONT. The *Journal de Bruxelles* says: 'This event will be received with the greatest satisfaction throughout all Europe.' The *Indépendance Belge* says: 'The beginning of a war against the Slave-trade may now be considered as imminent.'"

Whilst heartily congratulating all those who are interested in the welfare of Africa, and especially those influential bodies and the numerous individuals who have helped to enlighten public opinion upon the great importance of supporting the British Government in its efforts to obtain the completion of the great work undertaken by the Conference, we think it right to reprint in continuation, and as matter for future reference, a few of the principal letters and articles which have lately been published in *The Times*, and some other journals, during the long continued crisis that has existed.

It is also right to record our appreciation of the great assistance rendered by *The Times* and nearly all the principal news-papers in London and the Provinces, which, by throwing open their columns for correspondence, and by powerful editorial articles, have enabled all those who chose to study the question to understand the nature of the difficulties which had to be overcome.

We also publish a translation of the General Act, upon which we hope to comment in a future number.

THE CRISIS IN THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

Further Press and other Notices.

LETTER FROM LORD WOLSELEY.

HOLLAND AND THE SLAVE-TRADE.

To the Editor of "THE TIMES."

SIR,—Every one sincerely interested in the suppression of the Slave-trade must have read your article of the 6th inst. with intense satisfaction.

The great, the noble enterprise of pushing civilisation into the interior of Africa, upon which the KING OF THE BELGIANS, the most philanthropic of rulers, has long been engaged, is now in danger of utter shipwreck. And why? Because a few Dutch trading firms, greedy of gain and insensible to all high aims, selfishly object to the payment of all import duty on the Congo river. Without such dues the Congo State cannot raise the revenue it requires to carry out its glorious Anti-Slavery policy. That State is the creation of KING LEOPOLD. From his private purse came the money by means of which civilisation and peace and order have been carried into the interior of Africa. The undertaking has already cost him many hundred thousands of pounds, and he still helps it by a subsidy of £40,000 a year from his personal income. His noble ambition to help suffering humanity and his indomitable perseverance have been largely crowned with success, and he has, I may say, established order and a settled government, in what were previously the very hunting grounds of the Slave-dealer himself. Notwithstanding the subsidies allowed the Congo State by the King, and also of the Belgian Government, some £50,000 a year more is now required. Without it due effect cannot be given to the Anti-Slavery policy so recently advocated by all the European Powers who take a sincere and active interest in the negro, and in the suppression of the inhuman cruelties to which he has been subjected for centuries.

You, Sir, may, indeed, with justice refer to this additional revenue as a war subsidy. It is for an attack upon the stronghold of the Slave-trade this money is wanted; but it is no ordinary war in the interests of any one nation which has lately been proclaimed by the Anti-Slavery Conference. It is a godly war in the cause of humanity and in the interests of civilisation.

I endeavoured to point out in the October number of the *United Service Magazine*, as I had previously done in an official despatch of 1874 from the

Gold Coast, that if by the consent of all nations the importation into Africa of all firearms and ammunition could be absolutely prohibited, the Slave-trade would be killed for ever.

It is this policy the KING OF THE BELGIANS is striving to pursue in the Congo State.

Will England, will the civilised world, stand by and allow it to fail because of the objections made against it by some few selfish trading firms?

Will the verbal technicalities of a Convention entered into in 1885, before any Anti-Slavery campaign had been thought of, be allowed to stand in the way of the glorious object now aimed at?

I know the African trader too well to appeal to his humanity, to his feelings. What is it to him if the vile alcohol he deals in kills more fatally than war or pestilence, or if the arms and ammunition he barter for oil and ivory cause whole districts to be laid waste and depopulated by the man and woman hunting Slave-dealer? As long as the trader grows rich he cares for none of these things when in Africa, though his mouth is often filled with moral platitudes when he speaks in England on these subjects.

If the Berlin Convention is to be something more than a sham, it must be read in no narrow spirit, and interpreted in no exclusively legal fashion. It was conceived in the interests of civilisation and of African progress, but if the traders' objections be admitted, a new lease will be given to the Slave-hunter, and so farewell to all hope of settled government in Central Africa.

When the Congo State was first called into existence by the KING OF THE BELGIANS trade was only possible on the coast. Now, thanks to his Majesty's action, it is carried on safely above the Falls. I believe I am correct in saying that the Dutch Company then trading at the mouth of the Congo was bankrupt, and that its directors had disappeared. Now it is flourishing, pays handsome dividends, and has pushed its trading operations into the heart of Central Africa. This is the result of the peace and order introduced by the KING OF THE BELGIANS into countries where no white trader could previously have shown himself. If these mercantile firms had but even any common feelings of gratitude for the great benefits they have reaped by the creation of the Congo State, they would not now ungenerously and selfishly strive to induce Holland, alone of the seventeen signatories to the Convention, to refuse her consent to these import duties, now so urgently required for the suppression of the Slave-trade. It is to be earnestly hoped that the great Dutch people, which was for centuries the bulwark of European liberty and of free thought, a people to whom European civilisation owes so much, may not now, at the dictation of a few trading firms, relinquish the high position they have so long borne in the world.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

WOLSELEY.

Dublin, November 16th.

LETTER FROM MR. SYDNEY BUXTON, M.P.

To the Editor of "THE TIMES."

SIR,—May I be allowed to call public attention to the very grave danger which menaces the work of the late Anti-Slavery Conference held at Brussels?

The General Act of the Conference, and the Declaration annexed thereto must be signed by January 2 next, or they both fall to the ground. Sixteen out of the seventeen Powers represented at Brussels have already signed. Holland alone still refuses to sign. She takes objection to the authority, given under the Declaration appended to the General Act, to all Powers having possessions or protectorates in the conventional basin of the Congo, to establish revenue import duties not exceeding 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. This proposal was adopted by the Powers on the ground that those of them (and most particularly the Government of the Congo Free State) which have possessions on the Congo, require new local resources to meet the demand that will fall upon them in carrying out the articles of the General Slave-Trade Act.

The Government of the Netherlands has expressed its willingness to sign the General Act without the Declaration, and I believe it will be found that the present difficulty arises not so much from the Dutch Government itself, as from the pressure brought to bear upon it by the powerful commercial houses trading with the Congo. These Dutch companies carry on an extensive trade with the Lower and Upper Congo, and they, perhaps, not unnaturally, object to the imposition of any fresh duties. But the Declaration attached to the General Act enacts that:—"No differential treatment or transit duty shall be established," and thus, with regard to these duties, every nation will be placed upon the same footing.

It will be most deplorable if the good work that would have followed on the Anti-Slavery Conference should be brought to nought by the opposition of one Power out of seventeen, simply because some of her merchants happen to have a particular commercial interest in the Congo basin.

Should the Conference fail, not only will the Slave-traders be left unrestrained to carry on their cruel and destructive work, but the restrictions on the importations of arms and liquor into Africa, provided for by the General Act, will fall to the ground, and we shall have once more free trade in arms, in liquor, and in human beings.

The matter is one of urgent importance; but my personal reason for troubling you with this letter is that I had the honour of moving the Resolution of March, 1889, requesting her Majesty's Government to convene the Anti-Slavery Conference, which subsequently met at Brussels on the invitation of the KING OF THE BELGIANS.

I am, yours, &c.,

SYDNEY BUXTON.

15, Eaton Place, Nov. 20.

"THE TIMES" EDITORIAL, 21 November, 1890.

There is reason to fear that but little progress is being made by the Technical Commission convened at Brussels to deliberate upon the affairs of the Congo State, and more particularly the financial difficulties connected with efforts to suppress the Slave-trade. The Dutch envoy took his place in the commission "under all reserve," and it would seem that the obstructive tactics pursued by Holland at the Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference are adhered to with unabated obstinacy. According to our Brussels correspondent, it is becoming manifest that the Dutch Opposition use the proposed Congo State import duties only as a pretext, but aim in reality at the transfer of the Congo Free State to France. Any transaction of this kind will of course be shrouded in mystery, and sturdily denied until it becomes safe to proclaim its success. There have been indications that Holland is secretly supported in her vexatious policy by some stronger power, which has not the courage to avow its retrograde action. Taking, however, only what appears upon the surface of things, we find that the six months during which Holland must finally decide upon her course of action are rapidly coming to an end, and that there is no sign of any improvement in her attitude. We may again remind our readers what is the actual state of affairs. The seventeen Powers represented at the Brussels Conference came to an unanimous decision as to the measures it is proper to take for the putting down of the Slave-trade, of which one and all expressed the greatest detestation. These measures, however, cannot be carried into effect without an expenditure which the Congo Free State has no revenue to meet. Sixteen out of the seventeen Powers agreed that the necessary funds should be raised by the relaxation of the provision that free trade shall prevail in the Congo Free State. That provision in the constitution of the Free State has, either by gratuitous misinterpretation or from want of precision in its wording, been taken to forbid any imposition of import duties for purposes of revenue. Such a reading is manifestly opposed alike to common sense, and to all accepted definitions of free trade, which has never been taken to forbid taxes imposed to meet the cost of government. That absurd interpretation has, however, been allowed to pass without timely protest, and is now appealed to by Holland, which has never itself adopted free trade principles. Holland has not only adopted and adhered to the contention that, as a free trade State, the Congo State cannot collect import duties even to meet the necessary outlay of government, but has also stubbornly refused assent to such a revision of the constitution as will restore to the Congo State the elementary right of which it ought never to have been deprived.

Holland declares her readiness to sign the General Act of the Brussels Conference without the Declaration which confers the powers required to raise indispensable funds for the execution of the General Act. The civilised world will not be imposed upon by this hollow pretence of philanthropy.

Assent to the General Act goes for nothing, if, at the same time, assent be withheld from the condition precedent to its enforcement. Indeed, the position of the Dutch Government would have been considerably more respectable had it avowed objections to the General Act itself. Probably there is room for differences of opinion concerning some of the measures sanctioned by the whole of the seventeen Powers represented at the Conference, and, had the Dutch Government taken issue upon these measures, it might have pleaded something more or less resembling principle. But it has announced its readiness to sign the General Act, and consequently its belief that the measures that Act prescribes for the eradication of the Slave-trade are just, humane, and practicable. Having done this, it turns round and says, in effect, that none of these just and humane measures shall be put in force, because the taxes required to pay for them are distasteful to Dutch traders on the Congo. These Dutch traders are in exactly the same position as everybody else, and would be placed at no relative disadvantage by the proposed taxes. What is more, they owe all they have to the administration of the Congo Free State, to which they contribute nothing. As LORD WOLSELEY points out in his letter to-day, the Dutch companies on the Congo were in a very depressed condition when the Congo Free State was established ; but, thanks to its police and its opening up of the interior, they are now flourishing and paying handsome dividends. There is something inexpressibly mean in their refusal to contribute to the revenue of the State from which they derive protection and assistance, and to which they owe all their prosperity. The meanness of trading companies need not, however, excite any surprise. What does seem astonishing is that the Dutch Government, representing the Dutch people, should allow itself to be made the catspaw of these companies, and submit to be placed in the odious position it occupies at this moment, as the sole and only obstacle to the carrying out of comprehensive measures, approved even by itself, for the salvation of Africa from organised murder whereby Dutch merchants fill their pockets.

Even this is not the worst of the matter. It must strike every one as strange that the Dutch trading companies should make so much fuss about an import duty. At the worst it could not exceed ten per cent., and it would weigh equally upon any who might try to snatch their business. An import tax, as all the world is aware, is not paid by the importer, but by the consumer. The traders would not be a penny the poorer by the tax, nor is there even any reason to suppose that it would curtail their transactions. Things are not so nicely regulated in Central Africa that ten per cent. on the price of whisky and gunpowder can make any difference. What the Dutch, in fact, object to is not the raising of the money, but the purposes for which it is to be raised. They object to the restrictions it is proposed to place upon the sale of firearms, gunpowder, and bad spirits ; but it would not look well to object in terms, so they pretend approval of the General Act,

and then make it unworkable by developing a sudden and strictly local enthusiasm for the most stringent form of free-trade doctrine. It is well established that, while Arab raiders cannot be reached directly by any sort of police or by punitive expeditions, their operations could be curtailed, if not stopped, by adequate restrictions upon the importation of firearms and gunpowder. But the wholesale devastation they carry on by the aid of civilised appliances is not without an aim. Its aim is ivory. Stop the destruction of villages and the trade in their wretched inhabitants, and you stop also the supply of tusks. In other words, you not merely take ten per cent. of the imports of certain traders, but you cut at the root of their whole trade. So that the present question, reduced to its lowest terms, is simply this: Is African trade to be carried on upon its present footing, with the certainty that it waters the root of that hideous institution whose twigs and branches we endeavour to prune, or is the civilised world sufficiently in earnest about the abolition of Slavery to abolish also the immoral trade to which it is necessary, and trust to the springing up of a nobler and healthier commercial intercourse with populations no longer shivering at the crack of the ivory-hunter's rifle? After infinite trouble, the civilised world has been brought to a practical agreement in favour of the second alternative. Holland at present stands as the advocate of the first.

THE "STANDARD" EDITORIAL, 21 November, 1890.

* * * As far as England is concerned, there exists, and will always exist, but one wish in regard to the Netherlands. Our sole desire is that Holland should maintain its position of national independence, should pursue a career of uninterrupted prosperity, and should never become a prey either to internal strife or to foreign aggression. Our traditions and our interests alike link us with those who perceive in the territorial integrity of the Netherlands one of the most important and valuable buttresses of European peace, and one of the trustworthy elements in upholding that necessary factor—the Balance of Power.

But if such be the sentiments of this country in regard to the Netherlands, and if they are shared generally by the other Great Powers of Europe, it is all the more incumbent on the Dutch Government, let who may be at its head, rigidly and carefully to abstain from any act that may give serious umbrage to Foreign States and to European opinion generally. We regret to say that Europe has at this moment a very serious grievance to urge against Holland. The public are aware that by Article Four of the Act of Berlin, bearing date 1884, the Congo State was debarred from imposing import duties. This decision was arrived at rather hastily, and in any case

was the result only of such light on the subject as the Powers that signed that Act then possessed. It will also be remembered that, at the Brussels Conference, recently held for the purpose of determining what can be best and most efficiently done for the suppression of the Slave-trade, whether in the Congo territory, or in territory adjacent to it, it was proposed that the Congo State, which has been transferred from the KING OF THE BELGIANS personally to the Belgian Kingdom, should be allowed to impose import duties not in any case exceeding a maximum of ten per cent. *ad valorem*. In other words, it was proposed to rescind to that extent Article Four of the Act of Berlin ; and sixteen out of the seventeen Powers represented at the Brussels Conference acceded to the proposal. One State, and one only, demurred, and that was Holland ; and we are sorry to say that the Dutch Government has not yet withdrawn its opposition, notwithstanding the exhortations and remonstrances of the other Powers, and the outspoken protest of general European opinion. Apparently listening to the arguments of the Rotterdam Company, which does a considerable business with the Congo State, rather than to the dictates of philanthropy and the petition of friendly Powers, Holland has hitherto maintained an inflexible attitude, and, in order to disguise the motives by which it is animated, it proposes that the money required for battling with the odious traffic in human flesh should be provided by subscription among the various Governments that profess themselves interested. It has been shown conclusively that the suggestion is utterly impracticable ; and so extraordinary and indefensible is the conduct of the Government of the Hague, that we are not surprised to find it now roundly asserted that the Dutch Opposition are using their objections to the imposition of import duties only as a pretext, and that their real aim is to compel Belgium in the long run to allow the Belgian Congo State to be transferred by reversion to France. If this be their aim, they are imagining a vain thing. That will not be. Meanwhile, Holland is saddled with the odium of standing in the way of proposals sanctioned by all the other Powers for a curtailment of the African Slave-trade. It is eminently desirable that the QUEEN REGENT should use her influence to put an end to this unpleasant difficulty.

The Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference.

BY THE REV. JOSEPH RHODES (IN "WESLEYAN METHODIST MAGAZINE").

"THE recent spread of Mohammedanism in Africa has filled Christendom with alarm, lest Islam and not Christianity should absorb its Pagan peoples. Europe in Conference at Brussels has spoken with an emphasis which is reassuring, bidding the timid Christian, on this score at least, to 'Give to the winds his fears.' Effective occupation is to make real the claims of European Powers to African territory.

"What a sight! All the Powers, European and semi-European, that dominate Africa met together, not to see how much gain they may wring out of the defenceless African tribes, but how much benefit Europe may confer upon them! The rulers of half the earth transform themselves—and what a transfiguration it is!—into an Anti-Slavery Society, and that not deliberative and admonitory merely, but with administrative powers, to safeguard the existence of the African populations, threatened by the Slave-trade, fire-water, and the abuse of fire-arms. Heaven must have looked with peculiar satisfaction at a sight so unearthly, and held high festival over that triumph of philanthropy, won by a century of struggle and culture of public opinion, witnessed in the Council Chamber of Seventeen States, where the masters of the Dark Continent for six months deliberate and, after thoroughly threshing out every detail of the plan, decide upon united action for the planting of the iron heel of Europe upon the hydra-headed monster of Slave-dealing. This Conference was less a new departure than a marked advance on old lines. The present is the rich heir of the past; and alike past philanthropy and former European legislation for Africa's weal put on their fairer, more developed, and well-nigh perfect forms in the rich, rare fruit of these Brussels resolutions.

EARLY EFFORTS.

"Rather more than a century ago, May 13th, 1789, WILBERFORCE, in a masterly speech of three and a-half hours' duration—a speech which held the House of Commons spell-bound—threw down the gauntlet and declared war against the British Slave-trade; and after eighteen years of hard fighting, the forces under his able generalship won a signal victory in the passing of the enactment that 'no vessel should clear out for Slaves from any port within the British dominions after the First of May, 1807; and that no Slave should be landed in the Colonies after the First of March, 1808.' Ten years before his death, WILBERFORCE committed to Sir THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, Bart., the tremendous trust, to lead the forces of philanthropy in a second mighty campaign for the destruction of Slavery in British Colonies. On the 28th August, 1833, a month after the death of WILBERFORCE, the Bill for the *Total Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Dominions* received the Royal Assent. August 1st, 1834, witnessed the actual emancipation of seven hundred and seventy thousand two hundred and eighty Slaves; and of Greater Britain, as of the home-country, it could be proudly said: 'Slaves cannot breathe in Britain; they touch our country, and their shackles fall.'

* * * *

"So the battle has been carried from outwork to outwork, until at last we see the very citadel attacked, an entire continent beleaguered, and by slow sap and siege, after a terrible and prolonged struggle, the Slave-trade in Africa itself shall succumb to the extinction to which it is doomed. The Berlin Conference of 1885 . . . pronounced

the doom of the African Slave-trade ; and the Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference has sealed that doom, and adopted the needful measures for the suppression of the outlawed traffic. The Slave-trade destroyed, Slavery itself must fall before the resistless forces of humanity and brotherhood. This 'battle is the LORD'S,' and the issue is assured.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

"The recent Anti-Slavery Conference was one of the most intensely interesting and momentous ever held. It was the Parliament, or rather Cabinet, not of one but of seventeen States, and the fate of three-fourths of the largest continent in the world, containing probably more than a hundred millions of souls, largely depended upon its decisions.

"Amongst the more remote causes of the Conference must be placed the partitioning of Africa amongst the European colonizing powers, and the obligations imposed thereby. These had already been formulated in Article VI. of the General Act of the Berlin Conference, which reads as follows :— 'All the Powers exercising Sovereign rights, or having influence in the said territories, undertake to watch over the preservation of the native races, and the amelioration of the moral and material conditions of their existence, and to co-operate in the suppression of Slavery, and above all of the Slave-trade.' The blockade of the Zanzibar and Mozambique Coasts, in 1888, by the fleets of England, Germany, and Portugal, aided by others of the signatory Powers, showed a readiness to combine for the suppression of the maritime Slave-traffic. The immediate cause of the Conference, however, lay in the action of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, which celebrated the Jubilee of its existence last year. No more appropriate commemoration of this Jubilee could have been devised than the promotion of an International Conference on the Anti-Slavery question. In 1889, the grandson of Sir THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, Mr. SIDNEY BUXTON, whose hereditary right to handle the question was admitted by all, stood up in the House of Commons, and, as the spokesman of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, moved substantially the following resolution, which was agreed to without a division." * * *

(This resolution has already appeared in the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*.)

"In the Queen's Speech proroguing Parliament, the subject of the Conference held a prominent place, and in November, 1889, in response to the above invitation, the plenipotentiaries and delegates of sixteen States assembled in Brussels. Zanzibar afterwards appointed two representatives, one English and the other German.

"The contracting States are : Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Congo Free State, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Persia Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Norway, Turkey, United States and Zanzibar. Most unfortunately Holland has not yet attached her signature to the General Act. * * *

(Here follows an epitome of the General Act, published in full in this number of the *Reporter*.)

The Congo Free State and the Slave-Trade.

(From "THE MORNING POST," December 10th.)

NOT even the most sanguine of philanthropists anticipated five years ago the great change which that brief space of time has wrought in the attitude of the civilised Powers towards the Slave-trade. With the exception of Great Britain, hardly any State had gone beyond the stage of inactive sympathy in regard to this question, and the Powers which in 1885 signed the General Act of the Conference of Berlin, declaring freedom of trade in the basin of the Congo, did not imagine that in 1890 they should again be assembled for the revision and completion of the work which they initiated at Berlin. Freedom of trade and commerce and the freedom of the African are closely related in the way of cause and effect; but amidst the various provisions of the Act of Berlin for freedom of trade, the neutrality of territories, and the conditions of occupation, there occurs only an incidental and indefinite provision directed against the Slave-trade. The question was not in the mind of the Berlin Conference, what in America is called a "live question," and a decorous assumption on the part of the signatory Powers of an obligation "to watch over the preservation of the native tribes, and to care for the improvement of the conditions of their moral and material well-being, and to help in suppressing Slavery, and especially the Slave-trade, was deemed a sufficient discharge of their responsibilities. Public opinion was satisfied with the record, and thought little more about the subject. Africa was still a Dark Continent to most people. But the flood of light that has been since let into that darkness has startled the world to a sense of its duty by revealing to its gaze the horrors of that central gloom.

The narratives of the successive explorers who have penetrated through and through the continent, the tragic events of the Soudan, the intense interest aroused by the famous expedition of Mr. STANLEY for the relief of EMIN PASHA, and the scramble of the various European Powers for a share of the unappropriated territories of that quarter of the world, have succeeded in concentrating public attention upon Africa and its peoples to a degree which no one would have thought possible a few years ago. The consequence of this revelation of the actual conditions of human existence in Central Africa has been the suddenly roused resolution of the civilised Powers to put an end to the miseries of that existence, by a combined and organised war on the inhuman Slave-trade. Humanity is under obligations to those intrepid adventurers who have let the light into the heart of the Dark Continent and shown to the world the hidden horrors of those regions. But honour is chiefly due to those whose zeal on behalf of the unhappy native has never been broken by disappointment, or damped by indifference and neglect. *The untiring vigilance of our own Anti-Slavery Society*, the crusade of CARDINAL LAVIGERIE, the unostentatious enterprise of philanthropists and

missionaries, have been chief factors in drawing the public mind of Europe to an earnest consideration of the claims of humanity. But, above and beyond all, the name of one European Sovereign will be identified in history with the greatest movement that has ever yet taken place for the effectual suppression of the Slave-trade. The founding of the Congo Free State, ten years ago, marks the first great step taken for the opening of the darkest regions of Africa to the saving influences of civilisation, commerce, and Christianity. It was the work not of a nation but of a Sovereign whose philanthropy has only been equalled by his munificence in supporting and fostering this infant State and directing its great mission. It is impossible to contrast the thousands of miles of navigable waterway to-day—its warehouses, mission stations, and busy steamers—with the savage region of hostile cannibals, treacherous cataracts, and famine, through which STANLEY forced his way, without a feeling of astonishment at the change. The possession of this great waterway would have enabled the Arab Slave-raider of the Manyema countries to reach the products of Europe with his bloodstained ivory without the long and costly and exhausting overland journey to Zanzibar, and the inhuman traffic would thus have extended its theatre of activity from the shores of the Indian Ocean to those of the Atlantic. From this horrible fate the basin of the Congo was rescued by the KING OF THE BELGIANS, and the natives of these regions to-day largely enjoy the advantages of order and good government and security of life and property under the auspices of the State, instead of being hunted and slaughtered and kidnapped by the ruthless Slave-raiders. Only a Monarch whose munificence corresponded with his philanthropy could have done such a work; and as an achievement of humanity and civilisation, it is no exaggeration to say that the Congo Free State stands without parallel in history. When STANLEY, in 1879, returned in the service of KING LEOPOLD to the mouth of that river, in descending which he had encountered such terrible experiences, the chief evidence of European trade was a not over rich Dutch Company at Banana. There are now fourteen houses on the Upper Congo employing ten steamers on the river for trade purposes alone. Last year the value of the exports amounted to upwards of 6,000,000 francs, and imports probably to a larger amount. Traders and missionaries can travel in peace and safety from Banana to Kasongo—a distance of nearly 2,000 miles—under the altered conditions established by the State in the few years of its existence. In no other part of Africa could this be done; in no other part of Central Africa could one-fourth of the distance be attempted without risk of life every day.

Such, in brief, has been the rapid growth of the Congo Free State, and such are the results. As soon, however, as public interest in Africa became aroused by the events of recent years, the KING OF THE BELGIANS took advantage of the change, and, with the co-operation of the British Government, secured the assent of seventeen Powers to a conference at Brussels, having for its object "the firm intention," as the Act expresses it, "of putting an end

to the crimes and devastations engendered by the traffic in African Slaves, protecting effectively the aboriginal populations of Africa, and insuring for that vast continent the benefits of peace and civilisation." In order to give "a fresh sanction to the decisions already taken in the same sense and at different epochs by the Powers," the plenipotentiaries at the Conference embodied in a General Act a series of provisions aiming at the most effective means for counteracting the Slave-trade in the interior of Africa. After the seventeen Powers had acceded to the provisions of the General Act, however, it became evident that the due execution of the obligations imposed by this Act would necessitate the provision of additional resources for some of them having possessions or protectorates in the conventional basis of the Congo. It was agreed, therefore, to annex a Declaration authorising such Powers to establish import duties not exceeding 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, for the purposes of the Act, provided that no differential treatment or transit duty should be established.

It was to the circumstances of the Congo Free State that this Declaration specially referred. Considering that the Congo drains 1,600,000 square miles of "Darkest Africa," it will be easy to realise the magnitude of the work which the State has to perform, and the proportionate extent of its obligations under the Act of the Brussels Conference. When the State was founded, a few years ago, it was absolutely without resources, and those which its progress has since created—a matter of £25,000 per annum, obtained from export duties—are entirely inadequate to meet the expenses of government. For it must be borne in mind that the policy of the KING OF THE BELGIANS in directing the infant State was not to establish it at the coast and allow it to work its extension gradually towards the interior, but to advance boldly up the waterway, and by wrenching its possession from the Arab Slave-raiders, to place a barrier against all access by them to the regions below. So great a work demanded great expenditure, and it is to the King's private munificence that the State has been indebted not merely for its creation but for its maintenance. At present KING LEOPOLD contributes £40,000 a year from his private purse towards the public income, whilst the Belgian Government gives £80,000; but even with this assistance there is of necessity a large deficit. The duties imposed on the State by the Brussels Act must make the deficit still larger. The Conference Powers recognised this fact, and gave effect to their recognition of it by the Declaration authorising import duties, not exceeding 10 per cent., to enable the State to discharge the special obligations placed upon it by the Act of the Conference.

Holland alone out of the seventeen Powers, with the determination of a State that has never accepted the principles of Free Trade for itself, refuses to agree in the Declaration on the ground that it is contrary to the Free Trade provisions of the Berlin Act of 1885. So, perhaps, it is; but in the presence of the fact that sixteen of the Powers are unanimous in declaring the Berlin Act—in so far at least as they have agreed to modify it—to be out of

correspondence with altered conditions unforeseen and unprovided for five years ago, the *bonâ fides* of the objections raised by the one dissentient State is exposed to suspicion. Seeing that the Government of the Congo Free State does not intend to approach the authorised maximum of 10 per cent. on imports, and will probably be able to do with less than half that tariff on most articles, no champion of Free Trade has occasion to be much disquieted. Holland assuredly has no claim to stand forward against the rest of the civilised world as the upholder of Free Trade principles. The explanation of her attitude must be sought in some other direction, and it is, perhaps, not far to seek. The interests of Dutch trade on the Congo are supposed to stand in the way of the execution of the Brussels Act. The position taken by Holland in ratifying the General Act of the Conference, but refusing assent to the annexed Declaration, is that simply of sending a man out to attack an armed adversary while refusing him a weapon to fight with. The secret of Dutch apprehension is probably that every blow struck at the system of Slave-hunting on the Congo will recoil with certain effect upon the prosperous Dutch trade of that region. An import duty *per se* could have no effect upon the trade, especially so low a duty as is proposed to be levied; but a tariff providing the State with resources to suppress Slave-raiding, and enabling the State to cut off effectually the supplies of guns and gunpowder on which the Arabs depend for the prosecution of their raids, would have the effect of curtailing, and in time extinguishing, the supply of ivory now so readily obtained for the cheap currency of human flesh and blood. The profits of the trade which, under the conditions of peace and order established by the State, has bounded to its present prosperity from a state of almost bankruptcy in the space of a few years, would have to depend on more legitimate means of supply. Here is where the proposed tariff touches Dutch interests, and Holland is not ashamed to prefer these to those interests of humanity to which she has, with solemn insincerity, given her sanction. If she persists, against the unanimous sense of the other sixteen Powers, in clinging to trade absolutely free from duties in the Christian commodities of alcohol and gunpowder, the judgment of the civilised world will be prompt and emphatic; and it is to be hoped that her shame will not be shared by a greater State, concerning whose alleged secret support of Holland, for ambitious objects of its own, sinister rumours are freely afloat on the Continent. These rumours are not without grounds to rest upon. When, a few days ago, the delegates at the Congo Commission declared their readiness to proceed to the consideration of the import duties as they affected those parts of East Africa within the scope of the Berlin Act, on condition that the details of the tariff for East and West should be submitted to the full Commission before being admitted, France, it is said, insisted on exercising absolute control over the tariff to be applied to the French Congo territory, and refused to admit the right of the Commission to criticise what she might do from time to time. The concession of this right

would give France absolute control over the tariff of the Congo State, and the claim is a direct encouragement to Holland to persist in the obstructive course she has adopted, although Dutch interests must suffer severely if the French demand is conceded.

The ambition of France to convert her reversionary title to the Congo Free State into early possession has before now been pointed out in these columns; it is a project which will hardly be allowed to be realised, but the project is openly spoken of as being at the bottom of the alleged collusion of France with Holland in frustrating the objects of the Act to which they have both publicly given their assent. The avowed aims of the recently-formed Comité de l'Afrique Française embody a dominant national idea, and openly point in the direction above indicated. The French possessions north of Lake Tchad are to be united with those of the French Congo by a series of treaties made over the intervening territories by way of Baghirmi, and M. PAUL CRAMPEL has started northwards with a view of making these "treaties," and thereby cutting off Great Britain and Germany and the other nations from the important regions of the Central Soudan. Probably France may not find her power equal to her ambition in these parts of the world; but the moral will not pass without deep effect if the nation to which LAVIGERIE belongs conspires to defeat, for selfish purposes, the greatest act of humanity that has ever done honour to Europe.

Remarkable Capture of Slaves.

THE recall of the cruisers from the coast of Pemba presented a grand opportunity to Slave-dealers, and at least one dhow-owner determined to take advantage of the suspension of supervision by landing a number of Slaves at Pemba. In spite of the recent edict of his Highness the Sultan Zanzibar was chosen as the port of shipment, and the Slaves were kidnapped or bought on the mainland in the vicinity of Bagamoyo, and shipped over to Zanzibar singly and in couples in fishing canoes, thereby escaping observation. For several days the Slaves continued to arrive here until a sufficient number had been collected to load a dhow, and the night of the 17th October was chosen for the embarkation. Meanwhile Captain M'QUAY, of H.M.S. *Cossack*, received certain information which caused him to watch this particular dhow, and his cautious and judicious investigations resulted in finding out the time of shipment and intended departure. On the evening of the 17th he dispatched boats to watch all the channels by which a dhow could leave the harbour, the steam-launch, under the command of Lieut. GREVILLE, having the supervision of the English Pass, which would be the one most likely to be taken by the Slave-dhow. The commander of the *Cossack* had been informed that the crew of the dhow were armed and intended resistance if challenged; and he warned the officers of the several boats to be on their guard against surprise. Until 10 p.m. Lieutenant GREVILLE moored the steam-launch alongside the Eastern Telegraph store-ship *Indus*, where he was quite concealed from observation by the dhow, which vessel he had watched by a native interpreter. At the hour stated he received information that the dhow had sailed, and he immediately proceeded to the English Pass, but after remaining there some time, and seeing no sign of the dhow, he came to the conclusion that she had attempted one of the other

channels, and was returning to the harbour, when he observed a dhow, with sail down, pulling along the edge of the town reef, and having no doubt that she was the object of the search he proceeded towards her. Thereupon the dhow hoisted her sail and tried to escape, taking no notice of a hail to "down-sail," nor of a still more peremptory request to "heave to," in the shape of a round shot fired across her bow. Lieutenant GREVILLE, being now fully satisfied of the character of the vessel, gave chase in earnest, and, when some fifty yards off, he, by the aid of binoculars, observed the dhow's poop crowded with Arabs, all of whom were pointing rifles towards the launch, the crew of which were immediately ordered to open fire. Three or four rifles were fired at the same moment, and immediately afterwards a number of people were thrown overboard from the dhow, and a number of others jumped after them. When the launch ranged alongside several Slaves were found struggling in the water—these were picked up and placed in the launch and the dhow boarded. There was no sign of the crew, who swam on shore while the crew of the launch were engaged in picking up the Slaves who had been thrown into the water by the Arabs before they themselves jumped overboard. The nakoda of the dhow alone remained on board to receive his visitors, he having received a ball in the chest from the first and only volley; and he expired before the prize was towed alongside the *Cossack*. That the captain of the dhow was shot was to be regretted; but it is certainly a lesser evil than that Lieutenant GREVILLE should have shared the fate of Lieutenant COOPER, who lost his life through withholding his fire when boarding an armed dhow. On board the dhow were found 34 male and 10 female Slaves. The male Slaves were, with a few exceptions, boys from 8 to 12 years of age, and this is most fortunate, as Slaves freed when children are educated and instructed in some means of earning a livelihood at the mission stations.

The following day a prize court was held, under the presidency of his Honour Judge CRACKNALL; and the dhow was condemned. It was proved that she had no papers of nationality and carried no flag, and was evidently a Slaver pure and simple. The Slaves were all freed and the children were afterwards sent to the mission station at Mombassa. An amusing case of what I suppose must be called "love at first sight" resulted from this Slave capture: two *Seedi* boys who formed part of the crew of the launch on the night in question, were noticed to be particularly attentive to two of the female Slaves, and directly these particular women received their certificates of freedom they were taken by the two *Seedi* boys before Captain M'QUAY, who was requested to give his permission to their marriage. The dusky ladies, on being questioned, appeared eager to enter the state of marriage, and the permission of the captain having been obtained the two couples were taken before the *kadi* and united. As far as I could learn, the marriage ceremony merely consisted in the men entering into a bond to give the women each a certain sum of money in case they divorced them. I have said that the crew of the dhow escaped, but will not long remain at large. They are all known to be Arabs resident at Zanzibar, and the Sultan, who is furious at this daring attempt to set his authority at defiance, has placed a guard over each house, so that the Arab Slavers must either return and be captured, or leave their homes and property for ever, as his Highness has declared his intention of confiscating houses and contents if the occupants do not return within a month. Meanwhile the man who shipped the Slaves, and the agents instrumental in procuring them from Bagamoyo, have been captured, and the Sultan intends to punish them in such a manner as to make Slave-dealers in future pause and reflect ere they disobey the laws of his Highness.—*Bombay Gazette*.

Brussels Conference.

55, NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON,

5th December, 1890.

The following Memorial has been forwarded to the Marquis of Salisbury by the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, as his Lordship was unable to receive a Deputation :—

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G., &C., HER
MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

MY LORD,

In view of the fast approaching limit to the period of Six Months allowed by the Conference of Brussels for the completion of its work by the signature of the one Power which refrained from signing on the 2nd July last, the undersigned desire to urge upon your Lordship the necessity that exists for Her Majesty's Government to continue to exert its influence, by using every argument consistent with international amity, in order to procure that unanimity of the Powers which is requisite for carrying into effect the provisions of the General Act of the Brussels Conference and the Declaration appended thereto.

The feeling of alarm, which is created in the minds of your Memorialists, is shared by all those who are deeply interested in the welfare of Africa, the suppression of the Slave-trade, and the restriction of the traffic in ardent spirits and arms, by all of which that continent has so long been desolated and demoralised.

Your Memorialists desire to express the earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government may be able to secure the confirmation, and carrying into effect, of the Resolutions of the Conference, thus preventing the shipwreck of that consensus of nations, which would stand as the noblest of political achievements in modern times—not only for the extension of Christian civilisation and of legitimate commerce in Africa, but for the extinction of two of the greatest curses which still afflict mankind.

We have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's faithful servants,

On behalf of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,

ARTHUR PEASE, *President.*

JOSEPH ALLEN, *Treasurer.*

EDMUND STURGE, *Chairman.*

CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

LORD SALISBURY'S REPLY.

FOREIGN OFFICE, December 23, 1890.

SIR,

I am directed by the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, enclosing copy of a Memorial respecting the importance of the General Act and Declaration of the Brussels Conference, and I am to assure you in reply that Her Majesty's Government have not failed to use their best efforts to bring the labours of the Conference to a satisfactory conclusion.

(Signed) H. HERVEY.

The following Societies have co-operated with the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, and had appointed Delegates to attend the proposed Deputation :—

The Native Races and the Liquor Traffic United Committee : His Grace the DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., President ; Rev. J. GRANT MILLS, Hon. Sec.

Church Missionary Society : Rev. W. ALLAN ; CLARENCE A. ROBERTS, Esq.

Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts : General TREMENHEERE, C.B. ; Rev. Canon ELWYN.

Foreign Missions of the Church of Scotland : Rev. JOHN MCMURTRIE, D.D., Convener of Foreign Mission Committee ; J. MACLAGAN, Secretary.

Foreign Missions of the Free Church of Scotland : Rev. Professor LINDSAY, D.D., Convener ; Dr. GEORGE SMITH, C.I.E., Foreign Secretary ; WALTER A. ELMSLIE, Esq., M.B., C.M. (Missionary from East Central Africa).

Wesleyan Missionary Society : Rev. Dr. RIGG, Treasurer ; Rev. M. C. OSBORN, Deputy-Treasurer and General Secretary ; Rev. R. W. ALLEN ; T. MORGAN HARVEY, Esq., Lay Treasurer ; Sir GEORGE CHUBB ; PETER F. WOOD, Esq.

London Missionary Society : A. SPICER, Esq., Treasurer ; W. S. GARD, Esq., Chairman of Board of Directors ; ARTHUR MARSHALL, Esq., Chairman of Southern Committee ; and one of the Secretaries.

Baptist Missionary Society : W. R. RICKETT, Esq., Treasurer ; ALFRED H. BAYNES, General Secretary ; JOHN MARNHAM, Esq., J.P. ; W. C. PARKINSON, Esq., L.C.C.

Congo-Balobo Mission : Rev. H. GRATTAN GUINNESS ; Mrs. FANNY E. GUINNESS.

United Kingdom Alliance : Rev. DAWSON BURNS, D.D.

Church of England Temperance Society : Three Members.

Church of Scotland Committee on Intemperance : Rev. HENRY DUNCAN, Secretary.

The Universities' Mission to Central Africa : Rev. D. TRAVERS, Secretary.

The National Temperance League :

The Peace Society :

General Act of the Brussels Conference.

(Translation.)

IN THE NAME OF GOD ALMIGHTY.

HIS MAJESTY THE GERMAN EMPEROR, King of Prussia, in the name of the German Empire; His Majesty the EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA, King of Bohemia, &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary; His Majesty the KING OF THE BELGIANS; His Majesty the KING OF DENMARK; His Majesty the KING OF SPAIN, and in his name Her Majesty the QUEEN REGENT of the Kingdom; His Majesty the SOVEREIGN OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF THE CONGO; The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; The PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC; Her Majesty the QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, Empress of India; His Majesty the KING OF ITALY; His Majesty the KING OF THE NETHERLANDS, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, &c.; His Majesty the SHAH OF PERSIA; His Majesty the KING OF PORTUGAL AND THE ALGARVES, &c.; His Majesty the EMPEROR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS; His Majesty the KING OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY, &c.; His Majesty the EMPEROR OF THE OTTOMANS, and His Highness the SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR;

Equally animated by the firm intention of putting an end to the crimes and devastations engendered by the traffic in African Slaves, protecting effectively the aboriginal populations of Africa, and insuring for that vast continent the benefits of peace and civilisation;

Wishing to give a fresh sanction to the decisions already taken in the same sense and at different epochs by the Powers, to complete the results obtained by them, and to draw up a collection of measures guaranteeing the accomplishment of the work which is the object of their common solicitude;

Have resolved, on the invitation addressed to them by the Government of His Majesty the KING OF THE BELGIANS, in agreement with the Government of Her Majesty the QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, Empress of India, to assemble with this object a Conference at Brussels, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries:

[*Note.*—For names see end of Act.]

Who, furnished with full powers which have been found in good and due form, have adopted the following provisions:—

CHAPTER I.—SLAVE-TRADE COUNTRIES.—MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN THE PLACES OF ORIGIN.

ARTICLE I.

The Powers declare that the most effective means for counteracting the Slave-trade in the interior of Africa are the following:—

1. Progressive organisation of the administrative, judicial, religious, and military services in the African territories placed under the sovereignty or protectorate of civilised nations.
2. The gradual establishment in the interior by the Powers to which the territories are subject of strongly occupied stations, in such a way as to make their protective or repressive action effectively felt in the territories devastated by Slave-hunting.
3. The construction of roads, and in particular of railways, connecting the advanced stations with the coast, and permitting easy access to the inland waters, and to such of the upper courses of the rivers and streams as are broken by rapids and cataracts, in view of substituting economical and rapid means of transport for the present means of carriage by men.

4. Establishment of steam-boats on the inland navigable waters and on the lakes, supported by fortified posts established on the banks.

5. Establishment of telegraphic lines, insuring the communication of the posts and stations with the coast and with the administrative centres.

6. Organisation of expeditions and flying columns, to keep up the communication of the stations with each other and with the coast, to support repressive action, and to insure the security of high roads.

7. Restriction of the importation of fire-arms, at least of modern pattern, and of ammunition throughout the entire extent of the territories infected by the Slave-trade.

ARTICLE II.

The stations, the inland cruisers organised by each Power in its waters, and the posts which serve as ports of register for them shall, independently of their principal task, which is to prevent the capture of Slaves and intercept the routes of the Slave-trade, have the following subsidiary duties :—

1. To support and, if necessary, to serve as a refuge for the native populations, whether placed under the sovereignty or the protectorate of the State to which the station is subject, or independent, and temporarily for all other natives in case of imminent danger ; to place the populations of the first of these categories in a position to co-operate for their own defence ; to diminish inland wars between tribes by means of arbitration ; to initiate them in agricultural works and in the industrial arts so as to increase their welfare ; to raise them to civilisation and bring about the extinction of barbarous customs, such as cannibalism and human sacrifices.

2. To give aid and protection to commercial undertakings ; to watch over their legality by controlling especially contracts of service with natives, and to lead up to the foundation of permanent centres of cultivation and of commercial establishments.

3. To protect, without distinction of creed, the Missions which are already or are about to be established.

4. To provide for the sanitary service, and to grant hospitality and help to explorers and to all who take part in Africa in the work of repressing the Slave-trade.

ARTICLE III.

The Powers exercising a sovereignty or a protectorate in Africa confirm and give precision to their former declarations, and undertake to proceed gradually, as circumstances permit, either by the means above indicated, or by any other means which they may consider suitable, with the repression of the Slave-trade, each State in its respective possessions and under its own direction. Whenever they consider it possible they will lend their good offices to the Powers which, with a purely humanitarian object, may be engaged in Africa upon a similar mission.

ARTICLE IV.

The States exercising sovereign powers or protectorates in Africa may in all cases delegate to Companies provided with Charters all or a portion of the engagements which they assume in virtue of Article III. They remain, nevertheless, directly responsible for the engagements which they contract by the present Act, and guarantee the execution thereof. The Powers promise to receive, aid, and protect the national Associations and enterprises due to private initiative which may wish to co-operate in their possessions in the repression of the Slave-trade, subject to their receiving previous authorisation, such authorisation being revocable at any time, subject also to their being directed and controlled, and to the exclusion of the exercise of rights of sovereignty.

ARTICLE V.

The Contracting Powers undertake, unless this has already been provided for by their laws in accordance with the spirit of the present Article, to enact or propose to their respective Legislatures in the course of one year at latest from the date of the signature of the present General Act, a Law for rendering applicable, on the one hand, the provisions of their penal laws concerning the graver offences against the person, to the organisers and abettors of Slave-hunting, to perpetrators of the mutilation of adults and male infants, and to all persons who may take part in the capture of Slaves by violence; and, on the other hand, the provisions relating to offences against individual liberty, to carriers, transporters, and dealers in Slaves.

The associates and accessories of the different categories of Slave captors and dealers above specified shall be punished with penalties proportionate to those incurred by the principals.

Guilty persons who may have escaped from the jurisdiction of the authorities of the country where the crimes or offences have been committed shall be arrested either on communication of the incriminatory evidence by the authorities who have ascertained the violation of the law, or on production of any other proof of guilt by the Power on whose territory they may have been discovered, and shall be kept without other formality at the disposal of the Tribunals competent to try them.

The Powers will communicate to each other within the shortest possible delay the Laws or Decrees existing or promulgated in execution of the present Article.

ARTICLE VI.

Slaves liberated in consequence of the stoppage or dispersal of a convoy in the interior of the continent shall be sent back, if circumstances permit, to their country of origin; if not, the local authorities shall facilitate as much as possible their means of living, and, if they desire it, help them to settle on the spot.

ARTICLE VII.

Any fugitive Slave claiming on the continent the protection of a Signatory Power shall obtain it, and shall be received in the camps and stations officially established by such Power, or on board the vessels of such Power plying on the lakes and rivers. Private stations and boats are only permitted to exercise the right of asylum subject to the previous sanction of such Power.

ARTICLE VIII.

The experience of all nations who have intercourse with Africa having shown the pernicious and preponderating part played by fire-arms in Slave-trade operations as well as in internal war between the native tribes; and this same experience having clearly proved that the preservation of the African populations whose existence it is the express wish of the Powers to safeguard is a radical impossibility if restrictive measures against the trade in fire-arms and ammunition are not established, the Powers decide, in so far as the present state of their frontiers permits, that the importation of fire-arms, and especially of rifles and improved weapons, as well as of powder, balls, and cartridges, is, except in the cases and under the conditions provided for in the following Article, prohibited in the territories comprised between the 20th parallel of north latitude and the 22nd parallel of south latitude, and extending westward to the Atlantic Ocean and eastward to the Indian Ocean, and its dependencies, comprising the islands adjacent to the coast as far as 100 nautical miles from the shore.

ARTICLE IX.

The introduction of fire-arms and ammunition, when there shall be occasion to authorise it in the possessions of the Signatory Powers which exercise rights of sovereignty or of protectorate in Africa, shall be regulated, unless identical or more rigorous Regulations have been already applied, in the following manner in the zone laid down in Article VIII :—

All imported fire-arms shall be deposited, at the cost, risk, and peril of the importers, in a public warehouse placed under the supervision of the Administration of the State. No withdrawal of fire-arms or imported ammunition shall take place from such depôts without the previous authorisation of the Administration. This authorisation shall be, except in cases hereinafter specified, refused for the withdrawal of all arms of precision, such as rifles, magazine-guns, or breech-loaders, whether whole or in detached pieces, their cartridges, caps, or other ammunition intended for them.

At the seaports and under conditions affording the needful guarantees the respective Governments may permit private depôts, but only for ordinary powder and flint-lock muskets, and to the exclusion of improved arms and their ammunition.

Independently of the measures directly taken by Governments for the arming of the public force and the organisation of their defence, individual exceptions shall be admitted for persons affording sufficient guarantees that the arm and ammunition delivered to them will not be given, assigned, or sold to third persons, and for travellers provided with a declaration of their Government stating that the weapon and ammunition are destined exclusively for their personal defence.

All arms in the cases provided for in the preceding paragraph shall be registered and marked by the authorities appointed for the supervision, who shall deliver to the persons in question licenses to bear arms, indicating the name of the bearer and showing the stamp with which the arm is marked. These licenses are revocable in case of proved improper use, and will be issued for five years only, but may be renewed.

The rule above set forth as to placing in depôt shall also apply to gunpowder.

From the depôts can be withdrawn for sale only flint-lock guns, with unrifled barrels, and common gunpowders, called trade powders ("poudres de traite"). At each withdrawal of arms and ammunition of this kind for sale, the local authorities shall determine the regions in which these arms and ammunition may be sold. The regions infected by the Slave-trade shall always be excluded. Persons authorised to take arms or powder out of the public depôts (warehouses) shall present to the administration every six months detailed lists indicating the destinations of the arms and powder sold, as well as the quantities still remaining in the store-houses.

ARTICLE X.

The Governments shall take all measures they may deem necessary to insure as complete a fulfilment as possible of the provisions respecting the importation, the sale, and transport of fire-arms and ammunition, as well as to prevent either the entry or exit thereof by their inland frontiers, or the passage thereof to regions where the Slave-trade is rife.

The authorisation of transit within the limits of the zone specified by Article VIII. cannot be withheld when the arms and ammunition are to pass across the territory of a Signatory or adherent Power in the occupation of the coast, towards inland territories placed under the sovereignty or protectorate of another Signatory or adherent Power, unless this latter Power have direct access to the sea through its own territory.

If this access be completely interrupted, the authorisation of transit can no longer be withheld. Any demand of transit must be accompanied by a declaration emanating from the Government of the Power having the inland possessions, and certifying that the said arms and ammunition are not destined for sale, but are for the use of the authorities of such Power, or of the military forces necessary for the protection of the missionary or commercial stations, or of persons mentioned by name in the declaration. Nevertheless, the territorial Power of the coast retains the right to stop, exceptionally and provisionally, the transit of arms of precision and ammunition across its territory, if in consequence of inland disturbances or other serious danger there is ground for fearing that the dispatch of arms and ammunition might compromise its own safety.

ARTICLE XI.

The Powers shall communicate to each other the information relating to the traffic in fire-arms and ammunition, the licenses granted, and the measures of repression in force in their respective territories.

ARTICLE XII.

The Powers undertake to adopt or to propose to their respective Legislatures the measures necessary to insure the punishment everywhere of infringers of the prohibitions laid down in Articles VIII and IX, and that of their accomplices, besides the seizure and confiscation of the prohibited arms and ammunition, either by fine or by imprisonment, or by both penalties together, in proportion to the importance of the infraction, and in accordance with the gravity of each case.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Signatory Powers who have in Africa possessions in contact with the zone specified in Article VIII bind themselves to take the necessary measures for preventing the introduction of fire-arms and ammunition across their inland frontiers into the regions of the said zone, at least that of improved arms and cartridges.

ARTICLE XIV.

The system stipulated in Articles VIII to XIII shall remain in force during twelve years. In case none of the Contracting Parties shall have notified, twelve months before the expiration of this period, its intention of putting an end to it, or shall have demanded its revision, it shall continue to remain obligatory for two more years, and shall thus continue in force from two years to two years.

CHAPTER II.—CARAVAN ROUTES AND THE LAND TRANSPORT OF SLAVES.

ARTICLE XV.

Independently of the repressive or protective action which they exercise in the centres of the Slave-trade, the stations, cruisers, and posts the establishment of which is provided for in Article II, and all other stations established or recognised by Article IV by each Government in its possessions, will furthermore have the mission of supervising so far as circumstances will permit, and in proportion to the progress of their administrative organisation, the roads followed on their territory by the Slave-dealers, there to stop the convoys in their march, or to pursue them wherever their action can be legally exercised.

ARTICLE XVI.

In the regions of the coast known to serve habitually as places of passage or terminal points for Slave-traffic coming from the interior, as well as at the points of intersection of the principal caravan routes crossing the zone contiguous to the coast

already subject to the influence of the Sovereign or Protective Powers, posts shall be established under the conditions and with the reservations mentioned in Article III by the authorities to whom the territories are subject, with the purpose of intercepting the convoys and liberating the Slaves.

ARTICLE XVII.

A rigorous watch shall be organised by the local authorities at the ports and places near the coast in view of preventing the sale and shipping of the Slaves brought from the interior, as well as the formation and departure landwards of the bands of Slave-hunters and dealers.

Caravans arriving at the coast or in its vicinity, as well as those arriving in the interior at a locality occupied by the territorial Power, shall, on their arrival, be submitted to a minute inspection as to the persons composing them. Any such person being ascertained to have been captured or carried off by force or mutilated, either in his native place or on the way, shall be liberated.

ARTICLE XVIII.

In the possessions of each of the Contracting Powers the Administration shall have the duty of protecting the liberated Slaves, to repatriate them if possible, to procure for them means of existence, and, in particular, to take charge of the education and subsequent employment of abandoned children.

ARTICLE XIX.

The penal arrangements provided for in Article V shall be applicable to all offences committed in the course of the operations connected with the transport and traffic of Slaves on land whenever such offences may be ascertained.

Any person having incurred a penalty in consequence of an offence provided for by the present Act shall incur the obligation of providing security before being able to undertake any commercial operation in countries where the Slave-trade is carried on.

CHAPTER III.—REPRESSION OF THE SEA-BORNE SLAVE-TRADE.

§ I. *General Provisions.*

ARTICLE XX.

The Signatory Powers acknowledge the opportuneness of taking steps in common for the more effective repression of the Slave-trade in the maritime zone in which it still exists.

ARTICLE XXI.

This zone extends, on the one hand, between the coasts of the Indian Ocean (those of the Persian Gulf and of the Red Sea included) from Beloochistan to Cape Tangalane (Quilimane), and, on the other hand, a conventional line which first follows the meridian from Tangalane till it meets the 26th degree of south latitude; it is then merged in this parallel, then passes round the Island of Madagascar by the east, keeping twenty miles off the east and north shore, till it crosses the meridian at Cape Ambre. From this point the limit of the zone is determined by an oblique line which extends to the coast of Beloochistan, passing twenty miles off Cape Ras-el-Had.

ARTICLE XXII.

The Signatory Powers of the present General Act, among whom exist special Conventions for the suppression of the Slave-trade, have agreed to restrict the clauses of these Conventions concerning the reciprocal right of visit, of search, and of capture ("droit de visite, de recherche, et de saisie") of vessels at sea in the above-mentioned zone.

ARTICLE XXIII.

The same Powers have also agreed to limit the above-mentioned rights to vessels of smaller tonnage than 500 tons. This stipulation shall be revised as soon as experience shall have shown the necessity of such revision.

ARTICLE XXIV.

All other provisions of the Conventions concluded for the suppression of the Slave-trade between the aforesaid Powers shall remain in force in so far as not modified by the present General Act.

ARTICLE XXV.

The Signatory Powers undertake to adopt effective measures for preventing the usurpation of their flag, and for preventing the transport of Slaves on vessels authorised to fly their colours.

ARTICLE XXVI.

The Signatory Powers undertake to adopt all measures necessary for facilitating the rapid exchange of information calculated to bring about the discovery of persons taking part in Slave-trade operations.

ARTICLE XXVII.

At least one International Bureau shall be created; it shall be established at Zanzibar. The High Contracting Parties undertake to forward to it all the documents specified in Article XLI, as well as all information of any kind likely to assist in the suppression of the Slave-trade.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

Any Slave who may have taken refuge on board a ship of war bearing the flag of one of the Signatory Powers shall be immediately and definitively liberated; such liberation, however, cannot operate to withdraw him from the competent jurisdiction if he have been guilty of any crime or offence at common law.

ARTICLE XXIX.

Every Slave detained against his wish on board a native vessel shall have the right to claim his liberty. His liberation may be pronounced by any Agent of any of the Signatory Powers, on whom the present General Act confers the right of ascertaining the status of persons on board such vessels, without this liberation having the effect of withdrawing him from the competent jurisdiction if he have committed any crime or offence at common law.

§ II. *Regulation concerning the Use of the Flag and Supervision by Cruisers.*

1. *Rules for the Grant of the Flag to Native Vessels, and as to the Crew Lists and Manifests of Black Passengers on board.*

ARTICLE XXX.

The Signatory Powers undertake to exercise a rigorous watch ("surveillance") over the native vessels authorised to carry their flag in the zone indicated in Article XXI, and over the commercial operations carried on by such vessels.

ARTICLE XXXI.

The term "native vessel" applies to vessels fulfilling one of the following conditions:—

1. It shall present the outward appearance of native build or rigging.
2. It shall be manned by a crew of whom the captain and the majority of the

seamen belong by origin to one of the countries on the coast of the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, or the Persian Gulf.

ARTICLE XXXII.

The authorisation to carry the flag of one of the said Powers shall in future only be granted to such native vessels as shall satisfy at the same time the three following conditions :—

1. Fitters-out or owners of ships must be either subjects of or persons protected by the Power whose flag they claim to carry.
2. They shall be obliged to prove that they possess real estate situated in the district of the authority to whom their application is addressed, or to supply a solvent security as a guarantee of the payment of the fines which might be incurred.
3. The above-named fitters-out or owners of ships, as well as the captain of the vessel, shall prove that they enjoy a good reputation, and that in particular they have never been condemned for acts of Slave-trade.

ARTICLE XXXIII.

This authorisation granted shall be renewed every year. It can at any time be suspended or withdrawn by the authorities of the Power whose colours the vessel carries.

ARTICLE XXXIV.

The act of authorisation shall bear the indications necessary to establish the identity of the vessel. The captain shall have the keeping thereof. The name of the native vessel and the indication of its tonnage shall be inlaid and painted in Latin characters on the stern, and on the place where the initials of the name of the port of registry, as well as the registration number in the series of the numbers of that port, shall be printed in black on the sails.

ARTICLE XXXV.

A list of the crew shall be issued to the captain of the vessel at the port of departure by the authorities of the Power whose colours it carries. It shall be renewed at every fresh venture of the vessel, or, at latest, at the end of a year, and in conformity with the following provisions :—

1. The list shall be examined at the departure of the vessel by the authority which has issued it.
2. No negro can be engaged as a seaman on a vessel without having been beforehand questioned by the authority of the Power whose colours it carries, or, in default thereof, by the territorial authority, with a view to ascertain the fact of his having contracted a free engagement.
3. This authority shall see that the proportion of seamen and boys is not out of proportion to the tonnage or rigging.
4. The authorities who shall have questioned the men before their departure shall inscribe them on the list of the crew in which they shall be mentioned, with the summary description of each of them alongside his name.
5. In order the more effectively to prevent any substitution the seamen may, moreover, be provided with a distinctive mark.

ARTICLE XXXVI.

If the captain of a vessel should desire to embark negro passengers he shall make his declaration thereof to the authority of the Power whose colours he carries, or, in default thereof, to the territorial authority. The passengers shall be interrogated, and after it has been ascertained that they embarked of their own free will, they shall be inscribed in a special manifest, bearing the description of each of them alongside their

names, and indicating especially the sex and the height. Negro children shall not be admitted as passengers unless they are accompanied by their relations, or by persons whose respectability is well-known. At the departure the passenger roll shall be *visé* by the above-said authority after having been called over. If there be no passengers on board, this shall be specially mentioned on the crew list.

ARTICLE XXXVII.

At the arrival at any port of call or of destination the captain of the vessel shall show to the authority of the Power whose flag he carries, or, in default thereof, to the territorial authority, the crew list and, if need be, the passenger roll last delivered. The authority shall check the passengers arrived at their destination or stopping at a port of call, and shall mention their landing in the roll. At the departure of the vessel the same authority shall affix a fresh *visa* to the list and roll, and call over the passengers.

ARTICLE XXXVIII.

On the African coast and on the adjacent islands no negro passengers shall be shipped on board a native vessel except in localities where there is a resident authority belonging to one of the Signatory Powers.

In the whole extent of the zone mentioned in Article XXI of the preceding Act no negro passenger shall be landed from a native vessel except at a place in which there is a resident authority belonging to one of the High Contracting Powers, and unless such authority is present at the landing.

The cases of main force which may have caused an infraction of these provisions shall be examined by the authority of the Power whose colours the vessel carries, or, in default thereof, by the territorial authority of the port at which the vessel in question calls.

ARTICLE XXXIX.

The provisions of Articles XXXV, XXXVI, XXXVII, and XXXVIII are not applicable to vessels only partially decked, having at most a crew of ten men, and satisfying one of the two conditions following:—

1. That it be exclusively used for fishing within the territorial waters.
2. That it be occupied in the small coasting trade between the different ports of the same territorial Power, and never go further than five miles from the coast.

These different boats shall receive, according to the case, from the territorial or Consular authority, a special license to be renewed every year, and subject to withdrawal under the conditions provided for in Article XL, and the uniform model of which, annexed to the present General Act, shall be communicated to the International Information Office.

ARTICLE XL.

All acts or attempted acts of Slave-trade legally brought home to the captain, fitter-out, or owner of a ship authorised to carry the flag of one of the Signatory Powers, or who may have obtained the license provided for in Article XXXIX, shall entail the immediate withdrawal of the said authorisation or license. All offences against the provisions of paragraph 2 of Chapter III shall be punished, besides being subject to the penalties enacted by the special Laws and Ordinances of each of the Contracting Powers.

ARTICLE XLI.

The Signatory Powers undertake to deposit at the International Information Office the specimen forms of the following documents:—

1. License to carry the flag;

2. The list of the crew ;
3. The list of the negro passengers.

These documents, the tenour of which may vary according to the different Regulations of each country, shall necessarily contain the following particulars, drawn up in one of the European languages :—

1. As regards the authorisation to carry the flag :
 - (a.) The name, tonnage, rig, and the principal dimensions of the vessel ;
 - (b.) The register number and the signal letter of the port of registry ;
 - (c.) The date of obtaining the license, and the office held by the person who has issued it.
2. As regards the list of the crew :
 - (a.) The name of the vessel, of the captain, and of the fitter-out or of the owner ;
 - (b.) The tonnage of the vessel ;
 - (c.) The register number and the port of registry, its destination, as well as the particulars specified in Article XXV.

3. As regards the list of the negro passengers :

The name of the vessel which conveys them, and the particulars indicated in Article XXXVI, for the proper identification of the passengers.

The Signatory Powers shall take necessary measures so that the territorial authorities or their Consuls may send to the same office certified copies of all authorisations to carry their flag as soon as such authorisations shall have been granted, as well as notices of the withdrawal of any such authorisation.

The provisions of the present Article only concern the papers intended for native vessels.

2. *The Stopping of Suspected Vessels.*

ARTICLE XLII.

When the officers in command of war-vessels ("bâtiments de guerre") of any of the Signatory Powers have reason to believe that a vessel of tonnage less than 500 tons, and found navigating in the above-indicated zone, takes part in the Slave-trade, or is guilty of the fraudulent use of a flag, they may proceed to the verification of the ship's papers.

The present Article does not imply any change in the present state of things as regards jurisdiction in territorial waters.

ARTICLE XLIII.

To this end a boat commanded by a naval officer in uniform may be sent on board the suspected vessel after it has been hailed and informed of this intention.

The officer sent on board the vessel which has been stopped shall proceed with all possible consideration and moderation.

ARTICLE XLIV.

The verification of the ship's papers shall consist in the examination of the following documents :—

1. As regards native vessels, the papers mentioned in Article XLI.
2. As regards other vessels, the documents required by the different Treaties or Conventions remaining in force.

The verification of the ship's papers only authorises the calling over of the crew and passengers in the case and in accordance with the conditions provided for in the following Article.

ARTICLE XLV.

The investigation of the cargo or the search can only take place with respect to a vessel navigating under the flag of one of the Powers which have concluded, or may conclude, special Conventions as mentioned in Article XXII, and in accordance with the provisions of such Conventions.

ARTICLE XLVI.

Before quitting the vessel stopped, the officer shall draw up a minute according to the forms and in the language in use in the country to which he belongs.

This minute shall be dated and signed by the officer, and relate the facts.

The captain of the vessel stopped, as well as the witnesses, shall have the right to cause to be added to the minutes any explanations they may think expedient.

ARTICLE XLVII.

The Commander of a man-of-war who may have stopped a vessel under a foreign flag shall in all cases make a Report thereon to his own Government, and state the grounds upon which he acted.

ARTICLE XLVIII.

A summary of this Report, as well as a copy of the minute drawn up by the officer sent on board the vessel stopped, shall be sent, as soon as possible, to the International Information Office, which shall communicate the same to the nearest Consular or territorial authority of the Power whose flag the vessel in question had shown. Duplicates of these documents shall be kept in the archives of the Bureau.

ARTICLE XLIX.

If, in carrying out the supervision mentioned in the preceding Articles, the officer in command of the cruiser is convinced that an act of Slave-trade has been committed on board during the passage, or that irrefutable proofs exist against the captain, or fitter-out, for accusing him of fraudulent use of the flag, of fraud, or participation in Slave-trade, he shall conduct the arrested vessel to the nearest port of the zone where there is a competent authority of the Power whose flag has been used.

Each Signatory Power undertakes to appoint in the zone, and to make known the same at the International Information Office, the territorial or Consular authorities or Special Delegates who are competent in the above-mentioned cases.

The suspected vessel can also, should the case occur, be handed over to a cruiser of its own nation if the latter consents to take charge of it.

3. *Of the Examination into and Trial of Vessels seized.*

ARTICLE L.

The authority referred to in the preceding Article, to which the arrested vessel has been handed over, shall proceed to make a full investigation, according to the Laws and Rules of his country, in the presence of an officer belonging to the foreign cruiser.

ARTICLE LI.

If it is proved by the inquiry that the flag has been fraudulently used, the arrested vessel shall remain at the disposal of its captor.

ARTICLE LII.

If the examination shows that an act of Slave-trade, made clear by the presence on board of Slaves destined for sale, or any other Slave-trade offence provided for by special Convention, the vessel and cargo shall remain sequestered in charge of the authority who shall have directed the inquiry.

The captain and crew shall be handed over to the Tribunals fixed by Articles LIV and LVI. The Slaves shall be set at liberty as soon as the Judgment has been delivered.

In the cases provided for by this Article, liberated Slaves shall be disposed of in accordance with the special Conventions concluded or to be concluded between the Signatory Powers. In default of such Conventions, the said Slaves shall be handed over to the local authority, to be sent back, if possible, to their country of origin; if not, this authority shall facilitate for them, in so far as may be in its power, the means of livelihood, and, if they desire it, of settling on the spot.

ARTICLE LIII.

If it should be proved by the inquiry that the vessel has been illegally arrested, clear title will have been shown to an indemnity in proportion to the damages suffered by the vessel being taken out of its course. The amount of this indemnity shall be fixed by the authority which has directed the inquiry.

ARTICLE LIV.

In case the officer of the capturing vessel do not accept the conclusions of the inquiry carried on in his presence, the matter shall be handed over to the Tribunal of the nation whose flag the captured vessel had borne.

No exception shall be made to this rule, unless the disagreement arises in respect of the amount of the indemnity stipulated in Article LIII, and this shall be fixed by arbitration, as specified in the following Article.

ARTICLE LV.

The capturing officer and the authority which has directed the inquiry shall each appoint a referee within forty-eight hours, and the two arbiters shall have twenty-four hours to choose an umpire. The arbiters shall, as far as possible, be chosen from among the Diplomatic, Consular, or Judicial officers of the Signatory Powers. Natives in the pay of the Contracting Governments are formally excluded. The decision shall be taken by the majority of votes, and be considered as final. If the Court of Arbitration is not constituted in the time indicated, the procedure in respect of the indemnity, as in that for the damages, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article LVIII, paragraph 2.

ARTICLE LVI.

The cases shall be sent forward with the briefest possible delay to the Tribunal of the nation whose colours have been used by the accused. However, the Consuls or any other authority of the same nation as the accused, specially commissioned to this end, may be authorised by their Government to deliver Judgment instead of the Tribunal.

ARTICLE LVII.

The procedure, and judgment of offences against the provisions of Chapter III shall always be conducted in as summary a manner as is permitted by the Laws and Regulations in force in the territories subject to the authority of the Signatory Powers.

ARTICLE LVIII.

Any Judgment of the national Tribunal or authorities referred to by Article LXI declaring that the seized vessel did not carry on Slave-trade shall be immediately put in force, and the vessel shall be altogether free to continue its course.

In this case the captain or owner of any vessel seized without legitimate ground of suspicion, or which has been subjected to annoyance, shall have the right of

claiming damages, the amount of which shall be fixed by agreement between the Governments directly interested, or by arbitration, and shall be paid within a period of six months from the date of the Judgment acquitting the captured vessel.

ARTICLE LIX.

In case of condemnation, the sequestered vessel shall be declared lawfully seized for the benefit of the captor.

The captain, crew, and all other persons found guilty shall be punished according to the gravity of the crimes or offences committed by them, and in accordance with Article V.

ARTICLE LX.

The provisions of Articles L to LIX do not affect in any way the jurisdiction or procedure of existing special Tribunals, or of those which may hereafter be formed to take cognizance of Slave-trade offences.

ARTICLE LXI.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to make known to each other reciprocally the instructions which they shall give to carry out the provisions of Chapter III, to the Commanders of their men-of-war navigating the seas of the zone referred to.

CHAPTER IV.—COUNTRIES TO WHICH SLAVES ARE SENT, WHOSE INSTITUTIONS RECOGNISE THE EXISTENCE OF DOMESTIC SLAVERY.

ARTICLE LXII.

The Contracting Powers whose institutions recognise the existence of domestic Slavery, and whose possessions, in consequence thereof, in or out of Africa, serve, in spite of the vigilance of the authorities, as places of destination for African Slaves, pledge themselves to prohibit their importation, transit, and departure, as well as Trade in Slaves. They shall organise the most active and the strictest supervision at all places where the arrival, transit, and departure of African Slaves takes place.

ARTICLE LXIII.

Slaves liberated under the provisions of the preceding Article shall, if circumstances permit, be sent back to the country from whence they came. In all cases they shall receive letters of liberation from the competent authorities, and shall be entitled to their protection and assistance for the purpose of obtaining means of subsistence.

ARTICLE LXIV.

Every fugitive Slave arriving at the frontier of any of the Powers mentioned in Article LXII, shall be considered free, and shall have the right to claim letters of liberation from the competent authorities.

ARTICLE LXV.

Any sale or transaction to which the Slaves referred to in Articles LXIII and LXIV may have been subjected through circumstances of any kind whatsoever shall be considered as null and void.

ARTICLE LXVI.

Native vessels bearing the flag of one of the countries mentioned in Article LXII, if there is any indication that they are employed in Slave-trade operations, shall be submitted by the local authorities in the ports frequented by them to a rigorous verification of their crew and passengers both at arrival and departure. Should African Slaves be on board, judicial proceedings shall be taken against the vessel, and against all persons who may be implicated. Slaves found on board shall receive letters of liberation through the authorities who have carried out the seizure of the vessels.

ARTICLE LXVII.

Penal provisions in connection with those provided for by Article V shall be published against persons importing, transporting, and trading in African Slaves, against the mutilators of children or of male adults, and those who traffic in them, as well as against their associates and accomplices.

ARTICLE LXVIII.

The Signatory Powers recognise the great importance of the Law respecting the prohibition of the Slave-trade sanctioned by His Majesty the EMPEROR OF THE OTTOMANS of the 4th (16th) December, 1889 (22 Rebi-ul-Akhir, 1307), and they are assured that an active supervision will be organised by the Ottoman authorities, especially on the west coast of Arabia and on the routes which place this coast in communication with the other possessions of His Imperial Majesty in Asia.

ARTICLE LXIX.

His Majesty the SHAH OF PERSIA consents to organise an active supervision in the territorial waters and those off the coast of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman which are under his sovereignty, and on the inland routes which serve for the transport of Slaves. The Magistrates and other authorities shall, with this view, receive the necessary powers.

ARTICLE LXX.

His Highness the SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR consents to give his most effective support for the repression of crimes and offences committed by African Slave-traders on land as well as at sea. The Tribunals created for this purpose in the Sultanate of Zanzibar shall rigorously apply the penal provisions mentioned in Article V. In order the better to insure the freedom of liberated Slaves, both in virtue of the provisions of the present General Act and of the Decrees adopted in this matter by His Highness and his predecessors, a Liberation Office shall be established at Zanzibar.

ARTICLE LXXI.

Diplomatic and Consular Agents and the naval officers of the Contracting Powers shall, within the limits of existing Conventions, give their assistance to the local authorities in order to assist in repressing the Slave-trade where it still exists. They shall be entitled to be present at trials for Slave-trading brought about at their instance, without being, however, entitled to take part in the deliberations.

ARTICLE LXXII.

Liberation Offices, or institutions in lieu thereof, shall be organised by the Administrations of the countries to which African Slaves are sent, for the purposes specified by Article XVIII.

ARTICLE LXXIII.

The Signatory Powers having undertaken to communicate to each other all information useful for the repression of the Slave-trade, the Governments whom the present Chapter concerns shall periodically exchange with the other Governments statistical data relating to Slaves intercepted and liberated, and to the legislative and administrative measures which have been taken for suppressing the Slave-trade.

CHAPTER V.—INSTITUTIONS INTENDED TO INSURE THE EXECUTION OF THE GENERAL ACT.

§ 1. *Of the International Maritime Office.*

ARTICLE LXXIV.

In accordance with the provisions of Article XXVII, an International Office is instituted at Zanzibar, in which each of the Signatory Powers may be represented by a Delegate.

ARTICLE LXXV.

The Office shall be constituted as soon as three Powers have appointed their Representatives.

It shall draw up Regulations fixing the mode of exercising its functions. These Regulations shall immediately be submitted for the approval of those Signatory Powers who shall have notified their intention of being represented in this Office. They shall decide as to their intention within the shortest possible time.

ARTICLE LXXVI.

The expenses of this institution shall be divided in equal parts among the Signatory Powers mentioned in the preceding Article.

ARTICLE LXXVII.

The object of the Office at Zanzibar shall be to centralise all documents and information of a nature to facilitate the repression of the Slave-trade in the maritime zone. For this purpose the Signatory Powers undertake to forward within the shortest possible time :—

1. The documents specified in Article XLI.
2. Summaries of the Reports and copies of the Minutes referred to in Article XLVIII.
3. The list of the territorial or Consular authorities and special Delegates competent to take action as regards vessels seized according to the terms of Article XLIX.
4. Copies of judgments and condemnations in accordance with Article LVIII.
5. All information which might lead to the discovery of persons engaged in the Slave-trade in the above-mentioned zone.

ARTICLE LXXVIII.

The archives of the Office shall always be open to the naval officers of the Signatory Powers authorised to act within the limits of the zone defined in Article XXI, as well as to the territorial or judicial authorities, and to Consuls specially appointed thereto by their Governments.

The Office shall supply to foreign officers and agents authorised to consult its archives translations into a European language of documents written in an Oriental language. It shall make the communications provided for in Article XLVIII.

ARTICLE LXXIX.

Auxiliary Offices in communication with the Office at Zanzibar may be established in certain parts of the zone, on agreement beforehand between the interested Powers.

They shall be composed of Delegates of these Powers, and established in conformity with Articles LXXV, LXXVI, and LXXVIII.

The documents and information specified in Article LXXVII, in so far as relating to a part of the zone specially concerned, shall be sent to them direct by the territorial and Consular authorities of the region in question without this dispensing the latter from the duty of communicating the same to the Zanzibar Head Office, as provided for by the same Article.

ARTICLE LXXX.

The Office at Zanzibar shall draw up in the two first months of every year a Report upon its own operations, and those of the auxiliary Offices, during the past twelve months.

§ II. *Of the Exchange between the Governments of Documents and Information relating to the Slave-trade.*

ARTICLE LXXXI.

The Powers shall communicate to each other to the fullest extent and in the briefest delay which they shall consider possible :—

1. The texts of the Laws and Regulations of the Administration, whether existing or enacted, in application of the present General Act.
2. Statistical information concerning the Slave-trade, Slaves arrested and liberated, and the traffic in fire-arms, ammunition, and alcoholic liquors.

ARTICLE LXXXII.

The exchange of these documents, and information concerning them, shall be centralised in a special office attached to the Foreign Office in Brussels.

ARTICLE LXXXIII.

The Office at Zanzibar shall forward to it every year the Report mentioned in Article LXXX on its operations during the past year, and upon those of the auxiliary Offices which shall have been established in accordance with Article LXXIX.

ARTICLE LXXXIV.

The documents and information shall be collected and published periodically, and addressed to all the Signatory Powers. This publication shall be accompanied every year by an analytical Table of the legislative, administrative, and statistical documents mentioned in Articles LXXXI and LXXXIII.

ARTICLE LXXXV.

The Office expenses, as well as those incurred in correspondence, translation, and printing, shall be shared by all the Signatory Powers, and shall be recovered through the agency of the Department of the Foreign Office at Brussels.

§ III. *Of the Protection of Liberated Slaves.*

ARTICLE LXXXVI.

The Signatory Powers, having recognised the duty of protecting liberated Slaves in their respective possessions, undertake to establish, if they should not already exist, in the ports of the zone determined by Article XXI, and in such parts of their said possessions as may be places for capture, passage, and arrival of African Slaves, as many offices and institutions as are deemed sufficient by them, whose business will specially consist in liberating and protecting them in accordance with the provisions of the Articles VI, XVIII, LII, LXIII, and LXVI.

ARTICLE LXXXVII.

The Liberation Offices or the authorities charged with this service shall deliver letters of liberation, and keep a register thereof.

In case of the denunciation of an act of Slave-trade or of illegal detention, or at the instance of the Slaves themselves, the said Offices or authorities shall exercise all necessary diligence to insure the liberation of the Slaves and the punishment of the offenders.

The delivery of letters of liberation should in no case be delayed if the Slave be accused of a crime or offence against the ordinary law. But after the delivery of the said letters an investigation shall be proceeded with in the form established by the ordinary procedure.

ARTICLE LXXXVIII.

The Signatory Powers shall favour in their possessions the foundation of establishments of refuge for women and of education for liberated children.

ARTICLE LXXXIX.

Freed Slaves shall always be able to resort to the Offices to be protected in the enjoyment of their freedom. Whoever shall have used fraudulent or violent means to deprive a freed Slave of his letters of liberation or of his liberty, shall be considered as a Slave-dealer.

CHAPTER VI.—RESTRICTIVE MEASURES CONCERNING THE TRAFFIC IN SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

ARTICLE XC.

Justly anxious about the moral and material consequences which the abuse of spirituous liquors entails on the native populations, the Signatory Powers have agreed to apply the provisions of Articles XCI, XCII, and XCIII within a zone extending from the 20th degree north latitude to the 22nd degree south latitude, and bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, and by the Indian Ocean on the east, with its dependencies, comprising the islands adjacent to the mainland, up to 100 sea miles from the shore.

ARTICLE XCI.

In the districts of this zone where it shall be ascertained that, either on account of religious belief or from other motives, the use of distilled liquors does not exist or has not been developed, the Powers shall prohibit their importation. The manufacture of distilled liquors there shall be equally prohibited.

Each Power shall determine the limits of the zone of prohibition of alcoholic liquors in its possessions or Protectorates, and shall be bound to notify the limits thereof to the other Powers within the space of six months. The above prohibition can only be suspended in the case of limited quantities destined for the consumption of the non-native population and imported under the *régime* and conditions determined by each Government.

ARTICLE XCII.

The Powers having possessions or exercising protectorates in the region of the zone which are not placed under the action of the prohibition, and into which alcoholic liquors are at present either freely imported or pay an import duty of less than 15 fr. per hectolitre at 50 degrees Centigrade, undertake to levy on these alcoholic liquors an import duty of 15 fr. per hectolitre at 50 degrees Centigrade for three years after the present General Act comes into force. At the expiration of this period the duty may be increased to 25 fr. during a fresh period of three years. At the end of the sixth year it shall be submitted to revision, taking as a basis the average-results produced by these Tariffs, for the purpose of then fixing, if possible, a minimum duty throughout the whole extent of the zone where the prohibition referred to in Article XCI is not in force.

The Powers have the right of maintaining and increasing the duties beyond the minimum fixed by the present Article in those regions where they already possess that right.

ARTICLE XCIII.

The distilled liquors manufactured in the regions referred to in Article XCII, and intended for inland consumption, shall be subject to an excise duty.

This excise duty, the collection of which the Powers undertake to insure as far as possible, shall not be lower than the minimum import duty fixed by Article XCII.

ARTICLE XCIV.

Signatory Powers having in Africa possessions contiguous to the zone specified in Article XC undertake to adopt the necessary measures for preventing the introduction of spirituous liquors within the territories of the said zone by their inland frontiers.

ARTICLE XCV.

The Powers shall communicate to each other, through the Office at Brussels, and according to the terms of Chapter V, information relating to the traffic in alcoholic liquors within their respective territories.

CHAPTER VII.—FINAL PROVISIONS.

ARTICLE XCVI.

The present General Act repeals all contrary stipulations of Conventions previously concluded between the Signatory Powers.

ARTICLE XCVII.

The Signatory Powers, without prejudice to the stipulations contained in Articles XIV, XXIII, and XCII, reserve the right of introducing into the present General Act later on, and by common agreement, such modifications or improvements as experience may prove to be useful.

ARTICLE XCVIII.

Powers who have not signed the present General Act shall be allowed to adhere to it.

The Signatory Powers reserve the right to impose such conditions as they may deem necessary to their adhesion.

If no conditions should be stipulated, adhesion implies acceptance of all the obligations and admission to all the advantages stipulated by the present General Act.

The Powers shall concert among themselves as to the steps to be taken to procure the adhesion of States whose co-operation may be necessary or useful in order to insure the complete execution of the General Act.

Adhesion shall be effected by a separate Act. It shall be notified through the Diplomatic channel to the Government of the KING OF THE BELGIANS, and by them to all the Signatory and adherent States.

ARTICLE XCIX.

The present General Act shall be ratified within the shortest possible period, which shall not in any case exceed one year.

Each Power shall address its ratification to the Government of the KING OF THE BELGIANS, who shall give notice thereof to all the other Signatory Powers to the present General Act.

The ratifications of all the Powers shall remain deposited in the archives of the Kingdom of Belgium.

As soon as all the ratifications shall have been furnished, or at latest one year after the signature of the present General Act, their delivery shall be recorded in a Protocol which shall be signed by the Representatives of all the Powers which have ratified.

A certified copy of this Protocol shall be forwarded to all the Powers interested.

ARTICLE C.

The present General Act shall come into force in all the possessions of the Contracting Powers on the sixtieth day, counting from the day on which the Protocol provided for in the preceding Article is drawn up.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present General Act, and have thereto affixed their seal.

Done at Brussels the 2nd day of the month of July, 1890.

ANNEX TO ARTICLE XXXIX.

LICENSE to ply the Coasting Trade on the East Coast of Africa in conformity with ARTICLE XXXIX.

Name of Vessel, with description of Form of Build and Rig.	Nationality.	Tonnage.	Port of Register.	Name of Captain.	Number of Crew.	Maximum Number of Passengers.	Limits within which Vessel is entitled to ply.	General Remarks.

The present license must be renewed on the.....

Rank of Official who has issued the Permit :

Declaration.

The Powers assembled in Conference at Brussels, who have ratified the General Act of Berlin of the 26th February, 1885, or who have acceded thereto,

After having drawn up and signed in concert, in the General Act of this day, a collection of measures intended to put an end to the Slave-traffic by land as well as by sea, and to improve the moral and material conditions of existence of native races,

Taking into consideration that the execution of the provisions which they have adopted with this object imposes on some of them who have possessions or Protectorates in the conventional basin of the Congo, obligations which absolutely demand new resources to meet them,

Have agreed to make the following Declaration :—

The Signatories or acceding Powers who have possessions or Protectorates in the said Conventional basin of the Congo shall be able, so far as authority is required to this end, to establish duties upon imported goods, the scale of which shall not exceed a rate equivalent to 10 per cent. *ad valorem* at the port of entry, always excepting spirituous liquors, which are regulated by the provisions of Chapter VI. of the General Act of this day.

After the signing of the said General Act, negotiations shall be opened between the Powers who have ratified the General Act of Berlin or who have acceded to it, in order to draw up, within a maximum limit of the 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, the system of Customs Regulations to be established in the conventional basin of the Congo.

Nevertheless it is understood :—

1. That no differential treatment or transit duty shall be established ;
2. That in applying the Customs Regulations which are to be agreed upon, each Power will undertake to simplify formalities as much as possible, and to facilitate trade operations ;
3. That the arrangement resulting from the proposed negotiations shall remain in force for fifteen years from the signing of the present Declaration.

At the expiration of this term, and failing a fresh Agreement, the Contracting Powers will return to the conditions provided for by Article IV. of the General Act of Berlin, retaining the power of imposing duties up to a maximum of 10 per cent. upon goods imported into the conventional basin of the Congo.

The ratifications of the present Declaration shall be exchanged at the same time as those of the General Act of this day.

In faith of which the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have drawn up the present Declaration, and have affixed hereto their seal.

Done at Brussels, the 2nd day of the month of July, 1890.

Germany.—ALVENSLEBEN ; GÖHRING.

Austria.—R. KHEVENHÜLLER.

Belgium.—LAMBERMONT ; E. BANNING.

Denmark.—SCHACK DE BROCKDORFF.

Spain.—J. G. DE AGÜERA.

Independent State of the Congo.—EDM. VAN EETVELDE ; VAN MALDEGHEM.

United States of America.—EDWIN H. TERRELL ; H. S. SANFORD.

French Republic.—A. BOURÉE ; G. COGORDAN.

Great Britain and Ireland.—VIVIAN ; JOHN KIRK.

Italy.—F. DE RENZIS.

Persia.—NAZARE AGA.

Portugal.—H. DE MACEDO.

Russia.—L. OUROUSOFF ; MARTENS.

Sweden and Norway.—BURENSTAM.

Turkey.—ET. CARATHÉODORY.

Zanzibar.—JOHN KIRK ; GÖHRING.

Netherlands.—L. GERICKE. (Signed, December 30th, 1890.)

Zanzibar.

ANTI-SLAVERY DECREE ISSUED BY THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR, (*Dated August 1, 1890.*)

COLONEL EUAN-SMITH TO THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.*

[EXTRACT.]

ZANZIBAR, *August 3, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Anti-Slavery Decree, of which manuscript and printed copies, both in Arabic and English, are forwarded herewith, was promulgated by the Sultan ; and copies were affixed for public information in the places usually employed for such purposes on the afternoon of the 1st instant.

His Highness also sent copies of the Decree to all the foreign Representatives in Zanzibar, accompanied by a Circular letter, of which a translation is attached to this despatch.

Before leaving His Highness on Thursday morning, the 31st ultimo, when it was agreed that the publication of the Decree should take place next day, I earnestly advised him, before its actual promulgation, to have it read over to the leading members of the Arab community, and to have its provisions and probable effects carefully explained to them. This was accordingly done in open "baraza" on Friday morning, and I am informed that the Arabs then present declared that they saw little to object to, the knowledge that their present Slaves would not be taken away from them apparently giving them the greatest satisfaction.

The Decree was published late on the afternoon of the 1st instant, and on the morning of the 2nd instant the Sultan sent his officials and cleared out and closed for ever the six houses in which, as I understand, the traffic in domestic Slaves has been hitherto quietly carried on by recognised native brokers. The brokers themselves were warned against a re-exercise of their former occupation, under the pain of severe punishment.

In the evening of the same day Mr. CONSUL SMITH quietly paid a visit to the same houses, and saw that they had really been evacuated. An official of His Highness the Sultan accompanied him.

Since His Highness has signed the Decree he has shown himself most active in doing his utmost to give full publicity and effect to its provisions in all parts of his dominions, save only the German coast-line, concerning which I do not think it part of my duty to advise him.

His Highness sent off special messengers with copies of his Decree to the Walis in Pemba and those of the ports along the entire British coast-line. The latter, however, were sent, through me, to Sir F. DE WINTON, with a large number of copies of the Decree in question for publication throughout the British sphere.

The Sultan's Decree has, of course, caused an immense amount of discussion among the inhabitants of Zanzibar.

Little by little, the feeling is making itself apparent among the Arabs that its provisions assure to them more than they had themselves really expected or hoped for. They are, however, beginning to understand that the entire abolition of Slavery and the emancipation of all Slaves must eventually be the inevitable outcome of the Decree should its provisions be strictly carried out ; but they hope that such a result will not be arrived at for many years, and, in the meantime, they trust to fate to do

* Parliamentary Papers. Africa No. 1, 1890-91. C-6211. Price 1d.

the best that may be possible for them under the circumstances. The fear of a compulsory general emancipation has passed away for the time being, and their feeling of present relief is so great as to minimise their anxiety for the future.

The condition of the entire mass of Slaves now possessed by the Arabs within the dominions of the SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR has been so immensely ameliorated by the provisions of the Decree that I can now see no reason whatever why they should any longer form objects either of compassion or of interference on the part of the many well-intentioned humanitarian Societies who have hitherto interested themselves on their behalf. It is true that as a general rule domestic Slaves are well treated by their owners; that they are regarded much as members of the family, and are reasonably well cared for; and that in this state the vast majority of them would certainly be content to remain. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that hitherto they have been exposed, even as domestic Slaves, to the risk of many grave injuries and dangers.

They have had no remedy against habitual and severe ill-treatment; against being sold away at any moment (notwithstanding the order to the contrary) from their homes and families; against injustice of the grossest kind—in some cases against the infliction of death, if not upon themselves, upon the members of their families.

Their complaints and wrongs have had no chance of being heard or attended to. They have been denied *in toto* the right of obtaining their freedom. The Courts of Justice have been closed to them. Their status has been materially and morally the same as that of the ass or camel possessed by their owners.

All this is now changed. Against such risks as thus set forth, against ill-treatment, sale, or exchange, the Slave is now guaranteed by the absolute right of appealing to the Sultan, with the certainty that his plaint will be heard and attended to.

The door of freedom is opened to him in more ways than one. The Courts of Justice are no longer closed. The fear of death at the caprice of an irresponsible owner is minimised. As long only as he is well treated by his Arab owner, the Slave remains with him. Ill-treatment or any attempt at his sale or exchange secures his freedom. Well treated, he can, when he has sufficient money at his command, demand the right of purchasing his liberty, and have that right confirmed and enforced by the Sultan. His whole present status and his future are, in short, entirely changed from what they were a week ago.

Add to this that the Slaves may now look forward to the future emancipation of their children. At any moment, under Clause 1 of the present Decree, the late Sultan's Decree, freeing all children from Slavery that might be born after the first day of the current year, may be put into force. All this has been accomplished, as I believe, at a minimum of distress and loss of the Arab Slave-owners. The necessity has doubtless been now imposed on them of carrying, with more extended execution, the principle that has underlain and actuated each successive step in the long battle that has been waged by Her Majesty's Government against Slavery and the Slave-trade. They are now compelled, at the risk of losing all their Slaves, to treat each as if he was a sentient, reasonable human being instead of an unreasoning animal. And they have, above all, been brought face to face with the fact that throughout Zanzibar domestic Slavery is from henceforth as inevitably doomed now as the Slave-trade itself has been for many years past. But this knowledge and these responsibilities have not been arrived at or imposed upon them at any immediate sacrifice of all the customs, the habits, and the comforts of their lives. They will have time to teach their children

what the future has in store for them, sooner or later. For themselves and their sons they can still continue (and that for some years yet to come) surrounded as in the past by the Slaves who have for so long ministered to their daily wants, but whom for the future they will be compelled to make contented with their lot.

I feel, my Lord, that it is not necessary for me, in conclusion, to expatiate upon the praiseworthy action of the Sultan in consenting, after so short a reign, to publish such a Decree as that which accompanies this despatch.

The conspicuous merits of His Highness' conduct in this matter are not likely to be lost sight of by Her Majesty's Government. I have, &c.

(Signed) C. B. EUAN-SMITH.

Native African Drunkenness.

IN an interesting paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, on November 10, 1890, Mr. Consul JOHNSTON, C.B., gives an account of some natives on Lake Nyassa, who persist in intoxicating themselves on native spirit, quite irrespective of the alcoholic poison which unscrupulous traders import into Africa. In this instance the people are protected by the generous action of the African Lakes Company; but who can protect such people from themselves? Consul JOHNSTON writes:—

The country through which the Upper Shiré passes is a very desirable land—a broad, slightly undulating plain, magnificently fertile and well watered, a land eminently suited for the growth of coffee, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, and other tropical produce. The inhabitants are half Wa-Yao and half A-nyanja, the former being the ruling caste. The Wa-Yao are a truculent, quarrelsome, drunken set of people, drunken notwithstanding the Mohammedanism they affect as their belief. Indeed, I was forcibly struck with the fact that, in spite of the precautions taken by the African Lakes Company and the missionaries, by which all European forms of alcohol are rigidly excluded from the Shiré Highlands and Nyassaland, this district was the most drunken part of Africa I ever travelled in. I never saw before in Africa—certainly not in the Oil Rivers or the Cameroons, where horrified philanthropists will tell you that thousands of gallons of rum and gin are imported annually—such an extent of daily habitual drunkenness as I witnessed among the people inhabiting the shores of Nyassa, the banks of the Shiré, and the Shiré Highlands. In every part of the world, man *will* make for himself an intoxicant of some kind, whether it be from the milk of mares, from honey, from the sap of palms, the juice of countless fruits and roots, and almost every kind of cultivated grain; consequently it does not make so much difference as some people imagine whether or not European forms of alcohol are kept from being placed within the reach of uncivilised races, for savages of almost every grade, if determined to have an intoxicant, will speedily find means to manufacture one from the natural products of their own country. Therefore, in the Shiré Valley, the people who are carefully kept in ignorance of the allurements of rum and cheap British wines, brew themselves a heady beer from maize, and in some places distil a strong spirit from the sap of the *Borassus* and *Raphia* palms. The commonest cause (and excuse) of raids and murders in these countries is that the perpetrators were drunk.

PARLIAMENTARY.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *November 27.*

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether her Majesty's Government was able to inform the House as to the present position of affairs relating to the enforcement of the General Act of the Brussels Conference, and whether he would lay the Protocols of the Conference upon the Table of the House :

And, whether it was true that, unless the Government of the Netherlands affixed its signature to the General Act of the Brussels Conference by the 1st of January next, the deliberations of the Conference for the suppression of the Slave-trade, agreed to by the other sixteen Powers represented at the Conference would be nullified.

Sir J. FERGUSSON.—The protocols will be laid immediately. The present position is that Holland refuses to sign the Act with the Declaration annexed to it relating to import duties in the Conventional Basin of the Congo. The period during which her signature can be affixed expires at the end of the year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *December 5.*

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it was true, as reported, that the Government of the Netherlands had demanded an extension of the time given in which to sign the General Act and Declaration of the Brussels Conference :

And, whether her Majesty's Government could afford the House any information as to the steps they had taken to overcome the reluctance of Holland to sign the General Act and Declaration of the Conference.

Sir J. FERGUSSON.—No such demand has been made to our knowledge. It could only be addressed to the Conference. Steps are being taken by her Majesty's Government, in concert with other Powers, to induce Holland to sign, but it is not at present possible to indicate their nature.

VITU.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *November 27.*

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on what ground the British Fleet was employed to punish the SULTAN OF VITU and the Natives for the murder of German traders some months ago :

And, whether Vitu at the time of the murder was under German protection.

Sir J. FERGUSSON.—Germany withdrew her protection over Vitu in favour of Great Britain on July 1. Since that date it has ceased to be under German protection. The notification placing it under British protectorate was published on the 25th of the present month. At the time of the murder, therefore, the position was transitional, but as Great Britain had accepted in July the transfer of the protectorate, it was unquestionably her duty, and not that of Germany, to inflict punishment for murders of white men since that date. Papers on the subject are being prepared, and will be laid shortly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *December 5.*

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether a reward of 10,000 rupees has been offered by the British Naval authorities on the East Coast of Africa for the capture of the SULTAN OF VITU; and, if so, whether her Majesty's Government have given instructions that such offer should be withdrawn.

Sir J. FERGUSSON.—The reward has been offered. The Sultan has not yet been captured, nor has he surrendered to take his trial, and the offer still holds good.

AFRICANS ON THE "REI DE PORTUGAL" *Steamship.*HOUSE OF COMMONS, *December 1.*

Mr. A. M'ARTHUR asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government had received information from the Governor of the Cape respecting certain natives of Mozambique who escaped from the *Rei de Portugal*, which called at Cape Town in August on its passage to St. Paul de Loanda, who were alleged to have been part of a Cargo of Slaves and who were liberated by order of the Chief Justice of the colony; whether the Government were aware that a regular traffic in East African natives for employment on the West Coast was carried on by Portuguese vessels calling at Cape Town; and whether the Government would take steps to prevent a continuance of this illegal practice.

Baron H. DE WORMS—The natives who escaped from the vessel in question were not liberated by order of the Chief Justice, the Court simply abstaining from making an order for their return to the steamer. They were stated by the Portuguese authorities to be military conscripts, not Slaves. Her Majesty's Government have no reason to suppose that there exists such a traffic as that mentioned in the third paragraph of the question, but they have full confidence that the Cape Ministry would take the necessary legal measures to check it if it did exist.

NATIVE AFRICAN BARBARITIES ON THE CONGO.

MR. GLAVE, who lived for several years on the Congo, after describing the execution of a Slave on the death of an old woman, which he was powerless to prevent, thus writes: "It's awful, the amount of killing that goes on in Africa. A tribe will make up a party to go out to make captives in an adjoining village. They wait until after night, and then fire upon the village until its defenders are killed. They take the rest of the folks, and make Slaves of them. Some are killed for the mere fun of killing them, some are slaughtered to be eaten, some for sacrifice, and others die from cruel treatment. About five out of every six captives taken die by violence. As a consequence, the interior of Africa is being rapidly depopulated. One may go for hundreds of miles and not see a man, but may note the charred stumps which mark where villages have once been."

The African Slave-Trade.

THE *Times of India* publishes a long article on the East African Slave-trade, and deals with the question of the demand which still keeps the Slave-trade going. It recalls the time when in British India the English police magistrates sentenced Slave girls to be whipped for running away from their masters, and continues: The institution of Slavery in the East has from time immemorial been sanctioned and strengthened by the practice of polygamy. When the nomad Arabs and Hebrews of the patriarchal times pastured their flocks on the borders of the deserts, their polygamy only absorbed the surplus women of the tribe, left without mates by the chances of war and adventure. But among settled and more civilised nations like the Assyrians and Persians, the appropriation of numerous women by the kings and chiefs soon led to the necessity for supplying their deficiency in the nation by purchasing them abroad, or by capturing them in war. Islam unfortunately perpetrated this abuse by its promulgation of a divine law sacrificing the continuation of the Arab practices of polygamy and female Slavery—practices which were comparatively harmless to the hardy and frugal Bedouins, but which became a serious hindrance to virtue and progress when adopted by wealthy and powerful communities. The nations that adopted Islam depended for keeping up their population upon a supply of foreign women, and when this was cut off their numbers soon dwindled. But as long as the nations of the Mussulman world were warlike and victorious, the military propaganda of their Faith ensured an ample supply for the harems of the true believers.

THE REMOVAL OF RACIAL TRACES.

In India the heathen daughters of the land were taken as the concubines of the conquerors till the traces of the Arab, Persian, or Turkish descent of the paternal line were all but extinguished. In Europe the intermarriage of the Turks with Greek and Slavonian captive women gradually but completely removed all trace of the native ugliness of their Tartar ancestry. The Persians filled their Anderuns with Georgian and Armenian captives. Up to the beginning of the present century all captives of war taken from Christian nations were enslaved by the Turks, and a Turkish campaign in Hungary or Poland was little more than a gigantic Slave raid. Less than 200 years ago, 100,000 German and Magyar women and girls were carried off by the Turks in a single campaign. The Tartars of the Crimea were a nation of manstealers, and raided Poland and the Southern Provinces of Russia just as the Turkoman horsemen raided Persia to within a few years ago. The Turkish corsairs of the Barbary States did an immense trade in European women, mostly Spaniards and Italians, though these fetched lower prices in the market at Constantinople than the half-oriental Russians and Magyars, probably because the latter were more easily reconciled to their new domicile. When the decay of the Ottoman military power prevented the Turks from invading Christian countries any more, they still continued raiding and kidnapping. The Austrians were obliged to establish a "military frontier" on the side of Bosnia, planted with colonies of old soldiers, to prevent the constant incursions of the Turks. But the supply of captive women became less and less; the markets of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli were closed by the indignation of Europe in 1816.

THE OPENING OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.

The Greek War of Independence again for a time crammed the harems in Turkey and Egypt, but after its conclusion the Turks were reduced to depend upon the purchase of Circassian maidens. This source of supply was at length finally put an

end to by the Russian annexation of the Caucasus, and now Turkish domestic Slavery and the supply of eunuchs for the harems depends entirely upon the African Slave-trade, which is carried on by two routes—through the ports of the Red Sea, and through Tripoli. The stoppage of the supply of women means diminution in population to a polygamous nation, and consequent danger of extinction, while the non-polygamous races among them multiply and thrive. Hence LAMARTINE's observation that "the Turkish Empire is perishing for want of Turks." The restriction of the Slave-trade in Persia to Africans is producing its natural effect in darkening the complexions of the Persians, and the same effect will probably be observed among the Turks. The closing of all the other avenues by which women were formerly obtained to replace the drain caused by polygamy has intensified and aggravated the East African Slave-trade. It is simply a case of demand and supply; and so long as the demand exists it will continue to be supplied, no matter at what risks and hazards short of actual physical impossibility. Here in India we see how difficult it is, with all our elaborate machinery of justice and police, to absolutely stop the trade in female Slaves demanded by Eastern social customs.

THE TRAFFIC IN INDIA.

Within the last two years, two private branches of the Slave-trade have been discovered in our dominions: one carried on between the Punjab and Sind; the other between Madras and Rangoon. The practice of polygamy and the seclusion of women make it most difficult to stop this crime altogether. In spite of the vigilance of the Bombay police, Slaves are sometimes imported in the retinue of Nawabs returning from the pilgrimage to Mecca; and not unfrequently surreptitious attempts are made to run Slaves purchased at Jeddah through the British territories in India, so as to sell them in the different native states. But the vigilance of our police has so far succeeded that in British India the harem system may be said to be virtually extinct. We no longer find vast establishments of women, with female guards, officered by eunuchs, which may still be met with in natives states. The hostility of the British Government to the "peculiar institution" has killed the harem in India, and will in process of time kill the practice of polygamy. Were its vigilance now relaxed, the Slave-trade would soon spring up again in India. Out of India, however, there is no hope of the demand for African Slaves ceasing so long as the social customs of Islam remain what they are. So long as the Commander of the Faithful keeps 1,000 women and girls in his seraglio, guarded by eunuchs, and governed by the rod, it is futile for him to issue Irades against the Slave-trade, and to send Turkish representatives to an anti-Slavery conference. The most effectual method of stopping the African Slave-trade would be to stop the demand; but as this is clearly impossible at present, we must be content with doing our best to cut off the supply.

SLAVERY IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

THE naval authorities have received a very important report from the officer commanding in the Persian Gulf, where some of our vessels are located for the purpose of combating the Slave-traders. It is a remarkable fact, says the London Correspondent of the *Liverpool Courier*, that notwithstanding all the activity of the British vessels Slavery is on the increase in the Gulf. The report contains a description of horrible scenes of Slave life, and depicts the internal arrangements of a dhow which was captured by one of Her Majesty's vessels with 126 Slaves crushed into a miserable den below hatches. It is shown also that it is fast becoming imperative to consider whether it is not advisable to increase the force of cruisers.

Slavery in Peru.

SOME of our readers may be startled to be told that Slavery still exists in Peru; nevertheless such is the case, *de facto*, if not *de jure*. The Slaves are Chinese, and they are called "Coolies"—a convenient mask at the present day. It is probably almost forgotten how persistently and successfully the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY laboured for the extinction of the Coolie traffic from China to Peru. It was necessary to bring into action the interference of the Chinese Government, and anyone acquainted with China will know something of the difficulty of moving that ponderous and so-called "Celestial" machine. After having, with much trouble and expense, placarded the walls of the shipping ports in China with warnings to Coolies who might entertain the idea of emigrating to Peru, and after several communications with the British Government, the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY had the satisfaction of seeing the treaty between Peru and China fall to the ground. Certain smuggling transactions, no doubt, took place after the Chinese Government had prohibited the emigration, and it reflects little honour upon our own country that British steamers were sometimes employed in this inhuman traffic. We remember that Sir J. POPE HENNESSY described to us some years ago how he had stopped the shipment of a large number of Coolies to Peru because, having his suspicions aroused, he refused to give a clearance to the British vessel in which they were stowed, and for this he incurred a considerable amount of ill-will.

It is evident that some of the wretched Coolies formerly imported still survive in Peru, for in the Consular Report from that country, dated October 8, 1890, and signed by Sir C. MANSFIELD, occurs the following startling statement, and in the margin Her Majesty's Foreign Office does not hesitate to publish the account under the heading of "Slavery."

Slavery in Peru came to an end in 1845, and a few years later began the produce for exportation of sugar, cotton, wool, &c. Subsequently communication by steam was opened by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and Peru took her place in the world as an exporter of agricultural produce upon an extended scale.

Labour was supplied to a certain extent by Chile, and much more by the importation of Chinese coolies; indeed, all the railways were constructed by coolies and Chileans, the latter, however, since the war are no longer available.

Further supplies of Chinese coolies also can no longer be obtained for Peru; for, in consequence of the barbarous treatment which they received and still receive, the Chinese Government have prohibited emigration to the Republic.

Coolies on some properties work in irons to prevent their running away, are chained and locked up at night, and undergo cruel tortures when punishment is exercised; the truck system prevails, so that the coolie is always in debt to his master, who often makes a profit, even upon the opium retailed in lieu of a portion of his wages.

To the credit of the Peruvians it must be stated, that the estates, chiefly conspicuous for maltreatment of the Chinese labourer, are owned and managed by foreigners.

Six years since the Pekin Government established a legation in Lima, but the efforts of the Chinese minister would not seem to have been successful in obtaining a mitigation of the evils to which his countrymen are subjected.

Mrs. Cady Stanton.

WE reprint from *The Echo*, without endorsing all the statements, an interesting character sketch of a lady still living, whose husband—some years deceased—was one of the Delegates to the Great Anti-Slavery Convention held in London, and whose portrait, No. 44, may be seen in HAYDON's great historic picture of that Convention, which was presented to the National Portrait Gallery some years ago, by the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Mrs. CADY STANTON, the veteran American pioneer in so many of the social movements of the age, made her first appearance in England exactly fifty years ago, and in somewhat romantic fashion. She was then the young bride of Mr. HENRY B. STANTON, one of the most devoted and eloquent Anti-Slavery platform speakers of that renowned agitation; and, with characteristic energy, the newly-married couple determined to "do" their honeymooning at the great World's Anti-Slavery Convention, to be held in London in 1840.

The Atlantic was not, as now-a-days, a mere steam ferry, and on the very eve of the Convention Mr. and Mrs. STANTON found their sailing vessel becalmed off the Southern Coast of England, with no prospect of a favouring breeze. They transferred themselves to a small boat, and, after some ten hours' rowing, effected a midnight landing at Torquay, and by pressing on with all speed, succeeded in arriving in time for the opening ceremony at the Freemasons' Hall, London. Mr. STANTON was duly welcomed, together with the other American men, but Mrs. STANTON, LUCRETIA MOTT, and a number of other ladies, who had travelled three thousand miles and more to be present, were denied admission to the assembly of delegates. Then a remarkable scene ensued. LUCRETIA MOTT, tall and stately, in her plain Quaker dress, her pale face aglow, but her sweet voice, gentle as ever, declared that the women delegates had no discretionary power; they were there to fulfil the pledges which they had made to their electing bodies, and the responsibility of rejecting or accepting them must rest on the Convention. The venerable THOMAS CLARKSON was in the chair, and WENDELL PHILLIPS and GEORGE THOMPSON strove with all their eloquence to secure fair-play for the women. DANIEL O'CONNELL was not present at the moment, but subsequently spoke in their favour. However, so foreign to the British mind at that date was the participation of women in any public matter, that many—and especially the clergy—made positively piteous appeals for the withdrawal of the ladies. Such an innovation seemed to them to imperil Church, State, and even Christianity itself. The debate was prolonged, the opponents grew positively hysterical, and, finally, those "dreadful American women" were excluded by an overwhelming majority. Amongst those who witnessed this scene, screened off in Jewish fashion, behind a bar in a little back gallery, were such women as LADY BYRON, ANNA JAMESON, AMELIA OPIE, MARY HOWITT, and ELIZABETH FRY.

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON had been detained at sea, but when he arrived he declined to take his place as a delegate, and remained with the boycotted ladies in the little curtained enclosure, declaring that if women who had worked as hard as any men for the liberation of the Slaves were denied admission, the Convention was acting in a false manner to its very first principles. In spite of this unfortunate welcome to England, Mrs. STANTON learned to see the better side of our life in a round of visits chiefly amongst Quakers in the three kingdoms. Freedom for all was then the

absorbing theme in the Quaker communities. The Slaves in Jamaica had just been liberated, and many earnest souls were busy devising schemes for further emancipation. It was then that Mrs. Cady Stanton made the acquaintance of Harriet Martineau, who subsequently, in her turn, made visits to the States.

Returning to America, Mrs. Cady Stanton, in 1848, resolved to call together a Convention of Women—a Convention, by the way, which should treat men in a more generous spirit than the women had been treated in London. The “call” was issued, and the assembly met at Seneca Falls. These pioneer women were aided by many noble men, notably amongst them Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison. For two days they sat in a densely-crowded hall, and discussed the question of political justice for woman, her claim as a citizen, wage earner, and property holder. Finally, a “Declaration of Sentiments” was drawn up and signed by one hundred men and women. All this was so novel, even in “advanced” America, that the Convention became the signal for an outburst of ridicule in every State. Not a few flinched before the storm, and timid creatures, both men and women, withdrew their names; but the faithful few stood shoulder to shoulder, and only drew closer to each other as their ranks thinned. Soon a second convention was held; the Press began to regard the scheme with more favour; new members were gathered in, and signs of progress were visible. * * *

Mrs. Cady Stanton, now 75 years of age, her head covered with a perfect diadem of silver curls, and her heart still fresh as in youth, has lived to see laws passed giving women a right to the control of their own property and to the guardianship of their own children. She has lived to see colleges opened for women, others thrown open to all, irrespective of sex and colour, and the power of voting for School Boards granted to women in half the States of America. In Kansas and Wyoming municipal suffrage has been granted to women, and in the State of Wyoming the Parliamentary suffrage has been possessed by them for twenty years.

But public life has been only one side of a very broad and active career. She has been a devoted wife and house-mother, and has trained her two girls and five boys to positions of usefulness. Determined to give her children a better education than their father was able to procure for them, she sent sons and daughters alike to college, and for twelve years delivered popular lectures throughout the length and breadth of the States, by which means she made a large income.

Some of her travelling reminiscences reveal her “pluck” and spirit. On one occasion, while touring in Iowa, she found the railway lines blocked with snow. Nothing daunted, and in spite of all expostulations, she hired a sleigh, enveloped herself in bearskins, and arrived at her destination just as the church bell announced the hour of her lecture. For three weeks she travelled across country in this fashion, fulfilling her every engagement. Her tour completed, she entered a comfortable hotel, and there found Mr. Charles Bradlaugh and General Sherman, who were both likewise on lecturing tours, but had considered themselves weatherbound, and absolved from fulfilling their engagements. The hero of “Sherman’s March to the Sea” was not a little startled when he heard how Mrs. Cady Stanton had overcome the snowdrifts, and saw her return in the best of health, while he had been spending weary weeks of idleness, snowbound in a heated hotel parlour.

FLORA.

British East Africa.

BY MR. GEORGE S. MACKENZIE.

At the evening meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, on November 11th, 1890, the Right Honourable the MARQUIS OF LORNE in the chair, Mr. GEORGE S. MACKENZIE, Director of the Imperial British East Africa Company, read an exhaustive paper on the position of British East Africa. We regret that want of space prevents our giving any extracts in the present number from this most interesting and valuable paper. Mr. MACKENZIE deals with the future of the Slave question very fully, and his remarks are worthy of every consideration. We cannot, of course, commit ourselves to unqualified support of all his views, but we are glad to see that he dwells specially upon No. 3 of Article I. of the General Act of the Brussels Conference (see *ante*, page 270) which declares that one of the most effective means for counteracting the Slave-trade is "the construction of roads, and in particular of railways, connecting the advanced stations with the coast, and permitting easy access to the inland waters, &c." This is a policy which the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY has always strongly advocated.

Mr. MACKENZIE's paper having been published in full by the Royal Colonial Institute, we believe that anyone desirous of studying the question can purchase a copy on application to the offices of the Institute. As the paper fills 19 pages demy 8vo., it is obviously too long for reproduction in the pages of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*.

The Anti-Slavery Quaker Poet of America.

From the "DAILY NEWS."

THE Poet WHITTIER has just entered his eighty-fourth year. He was born in a simple country house, among woodlands, near the Merrimac, in December, 1807. There are few poets who have not shown a sympathy, real or assumed, with the works and ways of Nature. To write of woods and flowers, of sunrise and the songs of birds, is regarded as the province of the poets; though, too frequently, the scenes they draw are evidence of a feeling after what is known to be rather than of knowledge gained by personal experience, and betray at times only too palpable a disregard of Nature's times and seasons. But in the poems of WHITTIER sights and sounds familiar only to a keen observer are painted with so rare, so broad, so true a touch, that it is plain he drew his inspiration from the fountain-head. His long life has indeed been mainly spent among the fields, the hills, the woodlands of that native land beyond whose bounds he has never wandered. In his verses we find ourselves at once in the open fields.

INFLUENCE OF BURNS.

It has been well observed that WHITTIER's "first impulses were inborn, not imitative." But it was the voice of a spirit kindred to his own that struck an answering chord in the young poet's soul. A wandering Scotchman sang to the assembled household "Bonnie Doon," "Highland Mary," and "Auld Lang Syne." In speaking of the scene, WHITTIER himself relates that though he has "since listened to the same melodies from" lips more trained and skilful, the "performance of the artist lacked the novel charm of the gaberlunzie's singing in the old farm-house kitchen." A little later his schoolmaster lent him a volume of BURNS. It was almost "the first poetry I had ever read (with the exception of that in the Bible, of which I had been a close student), and it had a lasting influence upon me. I began to make

rhymes and imagine stories and adventures." He was then fourteen. "Sweet day," writes WHITTIER,

— sweet songs! The golden hours
Grew brighter for that singing;
From brook and bird and meadow flowers
A dearer welcome bringing.

It was not long before the attempts of the young rhymers found a place in the Poet's Corner of a provincial paper. No writer will easily forget the thrill with which he scanned his own earliest contributions to letters actually in print. It is a sublime moment; an experience that perhaps never is repeated with its first force and freshness. It came to WHITTIER when he was working in the fields. The postman as he passed tossed him a copy of the county paper. The eager eyes of the young poet saw in print for the first time his own rhymes. "He stood rooted to the spot," his tools, his companion, the business of the moment all forgotten. ° ° °

ANTI-SLAVERY IMPULSES.

Further contributions led to a visit from GARRISON, who called to see the writer of these verses. The boy was brought in from the corn-field, bare-footed, coatless, wondering. His new friend's influence procured him a little more schooling, and, later on, a connection with the Press, which lasted for many years, and was the means of bringing him into the front rank of those who, through bitter storms of persecution, fought so nobly for the Slave. The earliest of his "Voices of Freedom" dates as far back as 1833. Ten years later he had fairly laid the foundation of renown. Those were days when to be an Abolitionist was to be an outlaw. The office of WHITTIER's paper, the *Pennsylvania Freeman*, was sacked and burned by the mob. He had to flee for his life from the armed ruffians of Boston. Thirty years after, when the 54th Black Massachusetts Regiment was on its way to the front, their gallant leader seemed, even to the peace-loving eyes of WHITTIER, "beautiful and awful as an angel of God, come down to lead the hosts of freedom to victory." Quakerism has ever proved itself the champion of liberty.

MR. STANLEY AND THE QUAKERS.

It was lightly said by Mr. STANLEY that Quakers had done nothing for the Slave. A band of men who stood so long in the forefront of the battle, who when at an early period their eyes were opened to the iniquity of Slavery set free their bondsmen without compensation, who, side by side with WILBERFORCE led the attack on Slavery in this country, can afford to disregard a reproach which must have been uttered in a moment of complete forgetfulness. LONGFELLOW's poems on this subject are often and justly quoted; but of WHITTIER one of his own countrymen has said, "that of all our American poets" he "has from first to last done most for the abolition of Slavery."

No one but the aged poet now remains of the "household voices" of his youth. He is the last. In the words of America's greatest poet—him who sang "to one clear harp in divers tones"—

———— they all are gone
Into the land of shadows all save one.
Honour, and reverence, and the good repute
That follows faithful service as its fruit,
Be unto him whom living we salute.

The Ladies' Negro Friend Society.

THE annual meeting of the Ladies' Negro Friend Society was held in the Temperance Institute, Birmingham, on September 12th. The Rev. C. G. BASKERVILLE presided, and amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. MORGAN, Rev. and Mrs. J. J. BROWN, Mrs. H. PEARSON, Mrs. J. E. WILSON, Mr. A. ALLBRIGHT, Mrs. BARTLEET, Mrs. and Miss MIDDLEMORE, Mr. and Mrs. JOEL CADBURY, Miss E. M. STURGE, Mrs. GIBBINS, Mrs. GOODCHILD, Miss PARKES (Aston), Mr. STEPHEN WRIGHT, Miss ALLBRIGHT, Mr. H. WHITWELL, Mr. JOHN W. SHORTHOUSE, Revs. HORACE WALLER, A. O'NEILL, G. SAMUELS, A. MURSELL, F. DENTON, W. WASTELL, W. MORGAN, Alderman DOWNING, Messrs. J. MOSELEY, J. LAWSON, J. M. GOODCHILD, J. E. POULTER, H. WHITWELL, and others. The annual report recorded continued interest in and success of the Society's work in African mission fields, although agents at Congo and other stations reported almost insuperable difficulties in consequence of the Slave-traffic. The treasurer's report stated that the total receipts for the year amounted to £147 7s., and that after making several donations to missions, &c., there remained a balance of £25 for future grants. The largest grant (£25) had been made to the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

The Chairman briefly addressed the meeting. He said that the acknowledgment of GOD's direction in the opening up of Central Africa, made at the end of STANLEY's book, and the fact that Colonel EUAN-SMITH, our Consul at Zanzibar, and Sir F. DE WINTON, Governor of East Africa, were both Christian men, anxious for the spread of missionary work, were most encouraging features. The various missionary societies at work in the Dark Continent, including this Society, were helping forward one grand, glorious crusade. STANLEY said nothing would do any good but the establishment of railways and the spread of the Gospel; the two things must go hand in hand. He was glad that the establishment of railways leading to the interior had already been commenced.

The Rev. HORACE WALLER (who was a companion of Dr. LIVINGSTONE in Africa), moved the adoption of the reports. Having expressed the interest with which, from his intimate acquaintance with the regions mentioned, he had followed the agents' letters embodied in the report, and testified to the zeal with which missionary enterprise was being pushed on in Africa by various religious organisations, he said the self-sacrificing labours of the missionaries had been very scantily acknowledged. They did not travel with a band of men armed with rifles. At the risk of giving offence, he said that STANLEY had been praised by the newspaper press throughout the country, and covered with honours. His position was, no doubt, an interesting one, but take the life of a man like Mr. ARNOT, Dr. CROSS, or any of their missionaries, who, without arms, except such as were necessary to secure food, literally cut off from the coast, having only haphazard communications with civilisation, hemmed in by savagery, and surrounded by irritated Arabs—take the lives of these men, and he protested against the assumption that a man who went into Africa arm-in-arm with TIPPOO TIB, the greatest Slave-trader who ever decimated the country—brave and pushing though he might be—should stand alone; but that side by side with him and in the first rank must be placed such men as he had mentioned—(hear, hear). He did not intend to talk politics at this meeting, but he affirmed that what Great Britain had wanted during the past ten years was a man who would make a personal study of this great African question, and without trying to stimulate Jingoism, or to wave a red rag in the face of the bull, should nevertheless see what

was England's duty to men like the Scotch and English missionaries. They had such a man in LORD SALISBURY. The noble marquess had had a difficult task to perform. He had had really to make a personal study of this question. He found Germany, like a child with a new toy, to the last degree taking everything too seriously, and regarding one hundred square miles of African territory as a thing, if necessary, to be fought over. He also found France troubled about the national flag and very touchy about being the cause of the Slave-trade, and crassly ignorant of things done in her name on the coast of Madagascar and in other places. Side by side with these things LORD SALISBURY found the missionaries settling down on Lake Nyassa and doing just what Dr. LIVINGSTONE wanted them to do—planting coffee and sugar and introducing into our markets new drugs. They were not men who blow their own trumpets, but they were men whom any statesman was bound to watch. LORD SALISBURY watched them, and, in a competitive examination on the condition of the interior of Africa, and what was now going on at the mission stations and so forth, his Lordship would doubtless beat everybody in Great Britain, with the exception possibly of about one hundred men. Within the past day or two he had heard from a district to the south of Lake Nyassa of the gathering of a crop of 13 tons of coffee, samples of which had been described by the Portuguese (who were not likely to exaggerate things in our favour) to be the best that came into our market. This was enough to make LIVINGSTONE's spirit return to pat that coffee-planter on the back—(laughter). It was the very thing the great missionary wanted. He and Dr. LIVINGSTONE had laid under the trees in Africa trying to concoct plans for extending the growth of coffee, and he (Mr. WALLER) planted the first coffee berry ever planted in that part of Africa. These things were now being done by such men as Mr. BUCHANAN, our Consul in Central Africa, and he repeated that LORD SALISBURY was the statesman who had taken note of it. As a result of lukewarmness—itsself the consequence of partial ignorance, some people had said, "Don't quarrel with the little Portuguese; don't run foul of Germany." But LORD SALISBURY had put his foot down, and said, "This is not a matter of sentiment, but of practical work, and I cannot allow all these undertakings to be swept away." His Lordship had at all times most kindly and courteously listened to the details which the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY had laid before him, and the outcome of it was that all these mission stations were assured of protection by the influence of Great Britain, and the Germans had promised to give them a fair field. This was as it should be, but he wanted to call particular attention to one thing. Dr. LIVINGSTONE always looked upon Lake Nyassa and its surroundings as the centre of the Slave traffic. This was why missionary energies were devoted to that particular part. But there was no denying that we had taken under the British flag all the materials for trouble in time to come. It must not be imagined that because there was an English Protectorate and a large sphere of English influence the natives were all going to quiet down and give up their Slave-dealing. The Slave-trade would not come to an end in our time—probably not for two centuries. The Slave was an article of exchange, whose value varied according to his physical strength. It was therefore in the power of any Arab to raise a mint in any part of Africa, and by making raids by armed Slaves upon the natives, coin Slaves, that is, money, as fast as he liked. Our cruisers might diminish it on the coast, but it existed in its utmost fury in the interior, and he was sure it must go on for a long time to come. He warned them not to place too much reliance upon what was done by the Foreign Office. Mr. ALLBRIGHT and he

had long known how easy it was to get a Sultan of Zanzibar to give treaty assurances to the British Government that henceforth he would put down the Slave traffic. There must be a ream of these treaties pigeon-holed at the Foreign Office, but they were utterly useless. Another had been added to them within the past month or two, in which, curiously enough, the present Sultan promised to give vitality to these defunct papers, and to do this, that, and the other, with regard to the Slave-trade. We had taken Zanzibar under our protectorate, but they must not expect too much from it. The greatest scandal in Eastern Africa was that, so far from our garrison having produced any effect upon the traffic in and around the island of Pemba, it was now a more prosperous Slave market than ever. What we ought to do now was to send a Commissioner there, some young naval officer who would not be brow-beaten or hoodwinked, and who would see that the SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR carried out all he had promised. These edicts against the Slave-trade, although given, went against the grain; but England ought to put on the screw and insist, in the interests of missionary work, upon their being fully carried out. These were some of the most prominent features in the present position. No doubt in time England and Germany—instead of quarrelling about 100 square miles of territory, would only be too glad to get rid of a vast lot of responsibility to the first honest person who would take it. It would be a case of "Africa-for-the-Africans." Africa could not be colonised by Europeans, and they wanted to see the African made prosperous and free in his own country. Alluding to Southern Africa, he said its gold and diamonds fields were among the most valuable in the world, but they could not be worked by European labourers. Neither could railways or such works be undertaken by them, because the cultivation of virgin soil invariably produced deadly malarial fevers. Therefore, in the interests alike of commerce and of humanity, native labour—free labour—should be employed, and the finding of honest, profitable employment for the natives would open the way for missionary efforts. Moreover, if we could open communication with the districts favourable to the growth of coffee, and send it to Liverpool or London, we should be able to profitably compete with Brazil and Ceylon. All these were details, but they had the most important bearing upon the success of missionary work. During recent years our knowledge of African needs had greatly extended, but our Foreign Minister could not be expected to rush in front of public opinion. LORD SALISBURY was not adopting a slap-dash policy in Africa, but quietly insisting that villages should not be destroyed by Slave-raiders. Portugal had not yet agreed with LORD SALISBURY's proposals, and our Fleet had moved from Zanzibar to Mozambique because of a fear that the Convention recently entered into would be torn up. All these things showed that there were still clouds on the horizon. But very great advances had been made in the opening up and Christianising of Africa, during very recent years, thanks to British influence and the work of the missionaries. (Applause).

Miss STURGE, and the Revs. J. J. BROWN and A. O'NEILL, supported the motion, which was adopted. Votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

A FRIEND OF THE SLAVE.

No man living has suffered more in behalf of the negro race than the white man CALVIN FAIRBANK. For the alleged crime of aiding runaway Slaves he was immured in the penitentiary of Kentucky for seventeen years, and during that period received no fewer than 35,000 lashes on his back. He is now old and dependent, and to keep the pot boiling has written the story of his life during Slavery times. His friends are proposing to buy the plates of his book, and to present him with a thousand copies, which the poor old man is, we suppose, to hawk about. This is one of a class of cases that do not seem to us to reflect much credit on America.—*American Paper.*

The Church Congress at Hull.

PRESIDENT THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

In dealing with the question of Foreign Missions with special reference to Africa :—

Sir JOHN KENNAWAY, M.P., said that, in taking a survey of Africa as a field for missionary operations, we might conveniently note—first, its exploration; secondly, its appropriation; thirdly, its evangelisation. Its exploration was not a new thing. Forty centuries ago the predecessors of LIVINGSTONE and STANLEY were able to tell HERODOTUS of its pygmy inhabitants, who further reports circumnavigation of its coasts by an expedition of Phœnician sailors, sent out by NECHO, King of Egypt. After this, a long interval, something was learnt by the travels of BRUCE and MUNGO PARK; but the beginning of modern exploration was the expedition of KRAPP, forty years ago. Convinced “that the LORD had opened Africa,” and having sought from various points to penetrate the dark continent, he leaped forward to the conception of a chain of stations across Africa, and of missionaries from east and west shaking hands in the centre. The expedition which he started to carry out this was, to human eyes, a complete failure, yet it was in its indirect results of enormous importance. Out of it came the impulse that led to the journeys of BURTON and SPEKE. These journeys inspired the wider and later travels of LIVINGSTONE; LIVINGSTONE set on foot the Universities’ Mission, and his death was the starting point of the Scotch missions. To find him STANLEY went first to Africa. STANLEY’s second journey opened Uganda, thus originating the Church Missionary Society Nyanza Mission, and discovered the Congo, which river is now the highway to at least four missions. Then came the Congo Free State, which has led to the virtual partition of Central and Southern Africa amongst the nations of Europe. Certain it is that the African continent can no longer be called dark or unknown. Its main geographical features have been ascertained; we realise its enormous extent, equal in area to Europe and America combined. For many months past the Foreign Ministers of Europe have been engaged in considering the partition of Africa, not altogether of their own free will, but urged on by popular sentiment, and in the interests of the trader and the missionary. Only the plan of campaign is somewhat changed. In former years it was the universal aim to steal the Africans from Africa; now all are bent on taking Africa from the Africans. France has spent one hundred millions in colonization; Germany, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, and the Dutch have all made good their footing; but England in West and South and East stands pre-eminent. But it is in the evangelisation of Africa that their interest chiefly centres there that day. What might have been done, and was not, by the flourishing Churches of North Africa to bring the Gospel to their heathen neighbours, and God’s judgment upon these Churches for their neglect, is a standing warning and stimulus to us. The present century has witnessed persistent attempts to make up for lost time. The earliest efforts of the Church Missionary Society were directed to the West Coast of Africa, and the freed Slaves taken by our cruisers. We see there churches self-supporting and contributing to societies at home; but as a missionary agency to the regions beyond, the West African Church has not fulfilled the expectations formed of it, and it is to European agency that is entrusted the assault on the Mohammedans of the Western

Soudan. The missions on the East Coast, formed from the same material, are stretching out their hands, and Freetown has become a prosperous community. The story of the Uganda Mission has become a household word. The Universities' Mission, so well represented there that day, is rejoicing in the ordination of the first native priest and and in nearly 2,000 adherents. For more than twenty years English and Scotch missionaries have been spreading themselves over Nyassaland. The ground has been cultivated, and coffee, tea, and other produce grown. Churches, schools, and stores have been built, trade carried on, and roads made. In the beautiful Shiré Highlands the mission of the Established Church of Scotland has been at work for twelve years, its head station being named Blantyre, after LIVINGSTONE's birthplace. Some eighty children are boarded at the mission, and at another station is a school with a hundred pupils. Some £40,000 has been expended, and the difference between things as they are and were is very great indeed. No less successful has been the Mission Church of Scotland, whose headquarters are at Bandawi. The medical department has been a vast boon to the native population, some 10,000 of whom receive treatment annually. At Bandawi alone some 1,300 children are attending the schools. But the successes have been obtained at heavy cost. "The victorious Church," KRAFF himself wrote, when his wife was buried on the African coast, "is gained by stepping over the graves of her members." But the lives of these great men have not been thrown away, and out of their ashes is springing the seed already bearing such glorious fruit. The rough places are being made smooth and the crooked straight. The barriers have been broken down, and the railway and steamboat will shortly open every part of the continent. It is for us to realise our responsibilities, and enter in and take possession of the land in the name of the LORD. We must have missions to go in and the right men selected. There is work for all who are animated with the CHRIST-like love and burning desire to save souls. The training must vary with the class of men and the work they were called upon to do. There must be leaders to direct and govern, scholars for linguistical and translational work, schoolmasters, mechanics; indeed, every missionary must be ready with his hand as well as his head. He must have fertility of resources and self-reliance, the better to grapple with difficulties. He may have to build his house, make his furniture, work a printing press, till his garden, cook his food, and some training should be given him, with some special medical instruction of an elementary and practical character, such as is required for a training ambulance corps. It is not possible to generalise; particulars must be worked out by those conducting the training institutions.

Bishop SMYTHIES opened the discussion. He said that since he had been in Africa, during the last six years, there had been such an advance in the small part of that great continent into which the influence of the Universities' Mission extended, as to give great hope for the extension of missionary work far and wide in the future. Owing very much to the exertions of his predecessor, the great Bishop STEER, and those who had been trained by him, already the whole Bible had been translated into the coast language, and now there were continually issuing from the press in Zanzibar educational works translated into that language. Their work in Zanzibar, he was sorry to say, was not very greatly among those who lived in the island, but was more particularly among those whom they received from Her Majesty's Consuls as Slaves freed from the Slave ships and put under care. But in using them for the purpose of extending missionary work in Africa great advance had certainly been made. They were more and more forcibly convinced, as years went on, that if the Africans were to be converted in any large numbers, it must be by the ministry of the Africans themselves. (Cheers.) It was, unfortunately, at a very great loss of life that the English missionaries worked in that country. It had yet to be proved whether Englishmen or Germans could live in many parts of the country with all the difficulties that concerned the life of Europeans. The great point to which they had to turn their attention,

then, was the training of an African ministry as interpreters. The Africans were exceedingly able. If we were to train an African ministry then the Church must give the kind of men who were chosen to be at the head of our theological colleges to train our clergy. Men of any less efficiency would not do. We ought to dismiss altogether the rather fascinating picture which had been formed of a Christian village at a healthy situation, which drew people from all parts to live under the presiding genius of the missionary. Such a system was an entirely false one. It meant that all the ne'er-do-wells, and those who were discontented with their own chiefs and political conditions, assembled under the guise of being taught under the presidency of the missionary, who was thus elevated into the position of a priest, and would inevitably come into collision with other natural rulers in his neighbourhood. The system was bad also for the missionary's particular work, which should be spiritual. The true way was to go to the tribes, uphold the authority of the chief, and try and instil into his mind Christian principles. A merely emotional religion, or a religion part of which was emotional, would be very dangerous. Africans needed to have laws of morality instilled continually into their minds. Polygamy and impurity of every kind must be excluded entirely. Missionary work was now passing through a crisis. They had to ask themselves whether it was possible for missionaries to work outside the sphere of British influence, because, by reason of changes, they found a good deal of their work in the spheres of German and Portuguese influence. To all suggestions that they must contemplate the possibility of retiring from these spheres, he was obliged to say that it was utterly impossible. It would cover them with disgrace before their countrymen. (Cheers.) As for any suggestion of compensation, he had been obliged to tell the Government that it was something like an insult, as if they would sell the souls of their people for money. (Cheers.) He was thankful to see that, under the late agreement, the principle had been asserted that in these spheres of influence there should be the same toleration for countries as there was everywhere in the British territories. As to the training of missionaries, he thought the clergy had not been as careful in the selection of young men as they ought to be. Before all things they should take care that the missionary had a true missionary vocation. Unless he had he would be miserable himself, and the work in which he engaged would be a failure. (Cheers.)

Commander CAMERON, R.N., followed, observing that at present they had to face in Africa great, new, and political changes, and it was a subject of congratulation that the Prime Minister had asserted that through all the delimitations of territory in Africa the missionaries at all the stations were to have free and equal rights. Until religion, as it was taught in the New Testament, was understood and taught in Africa, there would be no permanent dealing with Slavery. It was necessary that Mohammedans should be taught where their religion was similar to the Christian religion, and they should not be told that they were entirely mistaken. Although he was of opinion that civilisation was a matter of race, and not religion, he approved of the steps taken to educate the native ministry; but the progress must be a slow one. Every company and every ruling power which went out to Africa ought to take education and religion to the people in the forefront, otherwise we could not make our government very secure, and one of the saddest things one could see in the Chartered Company of South Africa was that five hundred men had been sent into the country, and not one single minister of religion with them. The first and most important article a missionary should pack up with him was a thoroughly good temper (laughter), combined with tact. We should not attempt to make African civilisation a spurious imitation of English civilisation. We should not trust all to the missionaries. People at home had their work to do in supporting those who were sent, and it would be just as much our fault if anything went wrong in Africa as if any missionary made the greatest possible mistake.

The President said that if he thought the sole idea that had influenced our statesmen in the provisional division of East Africa was the prosperity of our material commerce he should be filled with indignation. They had no right to take possession of a vast land simply to further their own material interests. (Cheers.) He felt sure there must have been some nobler thought behind. He regarded the acquisition of that great sphere of influence as giving them an opportunity for bringing to Africa the faith which was their light. They must recognise responsibility, but when we thought of the vastness of the opportunity there must surely be feelings of hope.

Reviews.

CARDINAL LAVIGERIE AND HIS WORK IN AFRICA.*

(BY THE ABBÉ FELIX KLEIN.)

WE have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of this most interesting volume, by favour of the Author, who has himself been a witness and a helper in many of the scenes which he so graphically describes.

The work comprises some 400 pages, and is divided into chapters, of which we give the headings below.

"Before the Episcopate." *"Episcopate of Nancy."* *"Archbishopric of Algiers."* *"Arab Orphans and the Question of Proselytism."* *"The White Fathers."* *"Missions to Equatorial Africa."* *"Anti-Slavery Work."* *"Cardinal Lavigerie and France."* *"The Cardinal as an Author,"—with Appendix.*

This book is very interesting reading, and lays before us in a clear and pleasant form the particulars of the Cardinal's work in Africa. His Eminence entered upon the Archbishopric of Algiers in May, 1868, and has steadily refused every offer that has since been made to transfer his great talents to any other sphere. Yet it was with feelings of pain that he consented to renounce his work in the episcopate of Nancy.

His old friend, Marshall McMAHON, proposed to the Emperor to appoint Monseigneur LAVIGERIE to the vacant Bishopric of Algiers, and his reply is worthy to be quoted :—

"If your Excellency had proposed to me a more considerable See than that of Nancy, my reply would certainly be in the negative. But I only accepted the episcopate as a work of devotion and sacrifice. You offer me a painful and laborious mission, a See in every way inferior to mine, and which brings with it not only exile, but the abandonment of everything which is dear to me. You think that I can do more there than any one else, therefore a Catholic Bishop can only give one reply to such a proposal. I accept the painful sacrifice which is offered me, and if the Emperor appeals to my devotion I shall not hesitate, whatever it may cost me. I willingly authorise your Excellency to make known this my answer to His Majesty."

The good Bishop's devotion was speedily rewarded by the elevation of the See of Algiers into an Archbishopric.

What the first Archbishop of Algiers and Carthage has effected in the land of his adoption we hope to show in a future number. It will, we think, bear out the statement of M. JULES SIMON, quoted on the title-page of the volume above referred to, in which he says : "Monseigneur LAVIGERIE is one of the three or four men of our generation who will leave an imperishable trace in history."

"THE DIARY OF A WORKING MAN IN CENTRAL AFRICA."†

The Rev. J. COOKE YARBOROUGH, a Member of the Committee of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, has recently edited the Diary of Mr. BELLINGHAM, Engineer, and Lay Missionary of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. This little work gives a true picture of daily life on Lake Nyassa, and we only regret that want of space prevents us from quoting some of the interesting facts contained in the work. We heartily commend the book to all those who are interested in the cause of Missions and the suppression of the Slave-trade. *Since writing the above we regret to notice the death of Mr. BELLINGHAM.*

* Paris, 1890 : Librairie Poussielgue, Rue Casscote, 15.

† *"The Diary of a Working Man (WILLIAM BELLINGHAM) in Central Africa, December, 1884, to October, 1887."* Edited by J. COOKE YARBOROUGH, Curate of Chislehurst. London : Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Slavery among the Chins.

(FROM *The Madras Times*.)

THE annexation of Upper Burmah, and the subsequent expeditions against the Chins, are likely to give work to England's philanthropists as well as to her Government. While indignation is aroused at the very thought of Germany encouraging or even permitting Slavery in East Africa, there are probably at present few in England who know that much will need to be done before Slavery is abolished among the Chins. Instead of occupying herself only or chiefly with the Slave traffic of East Africa, England will have to attend to a place where, under different circumstances, Slavery exists and flourishes. Among the Bounshe tribe of Chins, for instance, captives become Slaves. They are mostly well treated, apparently, but they are made to work, and they have to swear not to try to escape. Of course the Slave often does try to escape. Having perhaps eaten a little earth in the course of the swearing ceremony, he does not hesitate to "eat dirt" again by forswearing himself; but while he remains a captive he continues to be a Slave, and if captor or Slaves marry captives the children are regarded as hereditary Slaves. Freedom may eventually be worked out, but the prospect of escape and the bare chance of being ransomed appear to be the only bright spots in the minds of such captives as do not take kindly to the thought of making the best of circumstances. However, if the captive can find comfort in the thought that others share his misfortune, he may console himself with the thought that even among the Bounshe tribe itself there are hereditary Slaves, not captives nor children of captives, but Bounshes who have lost their freedom through some crime. Theft from a freeman or a chief renders a freeman liable to be reduced to Slavery, if he be caught, and if his guilt be proved. If he is a vagrant "with no visible means of subsistence," as the police say, he may obtain support from any one who will give it, but he thus relinquishes his freedom. Widows and orphans are thus transferred from the ranks of the free to those of the Slaves. If either parent is a Slave the children are Slaves. But a man can make any Slave he possesses free, in return for a ransom, or for service rendered, or for the purpose of marrying her, if she be a favourite female Slave, or by mere declaration. So long, however, as the master retains possession of the Slave he may kill him (or her), beat him, sell him, or do what he pleases, and no one else has a right to interfere.

This is a matter to which England will have to see, sooner or later. Greatly as she respects the religious scruples of those with whom she comes in contact, she has drawn the line at Slavery, and has committed herself to a policy of stamping it out at every possible opportunity. This policy she must carry out among the Chins. There can be no remonstrances with Germany accompanied by listlessness in Upper Burmah. Broadly speaking, the lines of Slavery among the Bounshes are much the same as those that were once to be seen in the United States; and no mere declaration is likely to suffice to induce the Chins to adopt Western ideas, and to change their former idea that the captive becomes a Slave, and that the detected thief pays for his criminality with his body. This is a matter that should occupy the attention of the Government of India at an early date. Rather than wait for the philanthropist to stir up an agitation, the authorities should take active steps to make known to all Chin tribes, among whom Slaves are to be found, that Slavery cannot be permitted anywhere near the territories over which the British flag flies. The cry against drink may come from home. Mr. CAINE may, perhaps, be advised to preach to the Chins

instead of to Madrassis. But Slavery should be interdicted by the Government, before there arises complaints in England and Germany that British authorities do not consistently practice what they preach, and that they wink at Slavery among the Chins while expressing horror the moment a report gets about that the Germans are not disposed to do all in their power to suppress it in East Africa. In regard to this matter, the right of any nation to interfere with the customs of other people has always, for many years past, been taken for granted. Apart from Slavery each nation may have certain claims to independence, and to be free from interference. But where Slavery prevails, the British, as well as other nations, have asserted their right to interference, and to support verbal remonstrances with armed forces, if need be. On the ground of consistency, if not of humanity, it behoves England's representatives in the East to see that all possible is done to remove from the Chin territories all traces there existing of the customs of a barbarous past, wherein life was regarded as movable property, and freedom could be lost by accident, sold, bought, or jeopardised by petty crime.

Obituary.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE WILLIAM ALEXANDER.

A FORMER well-known treasurer, for thirty years, of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY—Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM ALEXANDER—expired at his residence, Woodhatch, Reigate, a short time since, in the 89th year of his age. Although Mr. ALEXANDER has not for many years taken any part in Anti-Slavery matters, he was in former times a very active member of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, being one of its first Committee formed in 1839. Of that body, he was, we believe, the last living representative, the only other survivor of late years, Mr. STAFFORD ALLEN, having pre-deceased him by a little more than twelve months.

We hope to publish a short memoir of the late Mr. ALEXANDER in our next issue.

THE LATE DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S.

By the death of DEAN CHURCH, the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY loses a warm friend and supporter, who, although unable to take an active personal part in its work, was a contributor to its funds.

THE LATE SULEIMAN CAPSUNE.

SOME of our readers may recollect that at the great Jubilee Meeting held at the Guildhall, in 1884, a little Soudanese boy, who, having been set free by the late General GORDON, recaptured by the Slave-traders, again freed and brought to England by Dr. FELKIN, was presented to the Patron of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES. It is with regret that we have received, within the last few days, the following note from Dr. FELKIN :—

I am sure you will be sorry to hear that CAPSUNE died at the Mission School, Assiout, last month. It has been a great trouble to us, as he had just finished his education, and we were hoping that he would commence successful work. He has been very satisfactory in all ways, and his teachers were very pleased with him.

Slave-Trade in India.

WE have already given some particulars as to the considerable Slave-trade that appears to exist between Madras and Burmah, principally women and children. The *Calcutta Statesman* publishes the following further information, and we trust that some effective steps will be taken to put a stop to such an iniquitous traffic.

The extent of the Slave-trade that has been carried on between Negapatam and Burmah, implies gross negligence on the part of the Madras Government as well as the authorities in Burmah. Those engaged in the abominable traffic seem to have been as bold and unscrupulous as any Arab Slave-trader in Africa, and there is no knowing how many women and children have been kidnapped to Burmah, either to be indentured as labourers or sold to a life of shame. It was the merest accident that this extensive traffic was discovered, and as usual the authorities professed ignorance of the matter until brought to their notice by the revelations of a police-court case, though the trade must have been openly carried on for a long time past. There does not appear to have been any particular cruelty perpetrated in the execution of this systematic woman-stealing; but it would doubtless be the policy of the dealers to be merciful at the outset, for had they done otherwise their victims would have discovered that the promises of material benefits held out to them were delusive, and they would have proved recalcitrant. There must, however, have been some who, finding themselves deceived, resisted the attempt to enslave them, for it would be unreasonable to suppose that every one of the kidnapped girls accepted their fate with equanimity. And judging from what has taken place in similar cases elsewhere, the natural consequence of opposition would be the separation of the rebellious ones from their fellows, and their forcibly being silenced by means of bonds and cruel imprisonment. That such a traffic should have been systematically carried on between two parts of our Indian Empire reflects little credit on the vigilance of either the Madras or the Burmah Governments. It is true that we now hear a call for reports on the Slave-trade between the Madras coast and Burmah; but this is locking the stable door when the steed has gone. The Slavers are not likely to continue their operations now that the Government is on the alert, nor can any statistics or verbose official reports affect the case of perhaps the hundreds who have been sold into bondage, as they are scattered far and wide. The Madras Government can only take steps to prevent such a traffic continuing or establishing itself in another portion of the Presidency where detection would be difficult; and it will have to be vigilant, for Slave-dealers are proverbial for their cunning, which increases in proportion to the watchfulness and vigorous action of the authorities.

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